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LD231350 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

The seven-party alliance of Afghan resistance parties announced the formation of an "interim government," according to a communique cited by AFP 23 February. The proposed government, which "will replace the government in Kabul before the signing of the Geneva accord," will have a 28-member cabinet, including 7 "Muslims presently serving in Kabul," the communique stated, adding that the country will be renamed the "Islamic State of Afghanistan."

In a statement cited by IRNA, an Afghan Muslim coalition based in Tehran rejected the concept of compromise with "Soviet-inspired groups who are responsible for the social calamities in Afghanistan" and pledged not to stop fighting until "all Soviet troops are expelled" from the strife-torn country.

Israel

Occupied Territories—Two more Arab residents of "Judaea and Samaria" were killed the night of 22 February, Jerusalem radio announced. An Israeli resident was detained for questioning in connection with the death of one of the victims, a 13-year-old village girl. The other death occurred when IDF soldiers fired at rioters who had injured two soldiers in the Janin area, the radio added. Palestinian sources cited by THE JERUSALEM POST revealed that a 60-year-old man also died the previous day after being overcome by tear gas.

In a further development concerning the conduct of Israeli soldiers, a senior IDF source disclosed that the IDF is preparing to issue a briefing to soldiers on the legal aspects of the use of force, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. The move came after Attorney General Yosef Harish wrote to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asking him to issue "correct instructions" on the use of force to IDF commanders at all levels, according to Jerusalem radio. Stressing that force should not be used as a means of punishment or humiliation, or after a demonstration has already been dispersed, Harish warned that permitting the use of force for such purposes is illegal. Rabin subsequently maintained that there have only been "isolated cases of irregularities" by the IDF in the territories, the radio noted. As for the punishments in such cases, HADASHOT reported that four Golani Brigade soldiers were recently sentenced to prison terms of 21 to 28 days for using "unreasonable" force.

Shamir Views—In remarks cited by IDF radio, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reaffirmed his view that the timetable of the U.S. secretary of state's initiative is "too tight," but he revealed that he would not object to an international conference if it were convened at the end of negotiations in order to endorse agreements reached earlier. Shamir also told a Knesset committee that Israel will not be pressured into withdrawing from the territories, Jerusalem radio reported, and he claimed that Israel would be "despised" if it gave up "its land" so easily.

Pipeline Bribe Denial—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office denied allegations in Washington that Israel was offered a 700-million-dollar bribe during Peres' premiership to agree to the building of an oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan. The office told Jerusalem radio that such claims are "nonsense and ridiculous," and that no bribes were ever offered. As for the allegation that 10 percent of the bribe was to have gone to the Labor Party, Peres' office reaffirmed that "approval" for the Iraqi pipeline was given following consultations between Alignment and Likud leaders.

PLO-Palestinians

Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a statement by the "unified national leadership of the uprising" calling on Palestinians to display their anger to Secretary of State George Shultz by "more escalation and rejection." Nevertheless, Hanna Sinyurah, editor of the East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR, stated that while there will be no meeting with Shultz in Jerusalem, the Palestinians are not boycotting him, according to THE JERUSALEM POST. A Palestinian delegation could meet Shultz in Cairo, Europe, or Washington, Sinyurah asserted.

Regarding Arab financial support for the PLO, a Saudi official source cited by SPA disclosed that Saudi Arabia has given the PLO some $386 million since 1979, including a recent contribution of over $14 million to support the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The spokesman was reacting to a press statement by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in which he reportedly said that only Kuwait and Iraq have given money to support the Palestinian "uprising."

Lebanon

The Amal Movement has information that U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins is still in southern Lebanon and it believes he is being held south of the Litani River, Amal official Da'ud Da'ud stated in an interview published by Amman's AL-RA'Y 23 February. While warning that any U.S. military operation to free Higgins would be "extremely stupid," Da'ud maintained that Amal will not hesitate to take military action to free Higgins if he can be located. Da'ud also criticized Higgins for having announced he was coming to Tyre 5 days before the event, thus facilitating the kidnappers' task.

In other developments relating to recent kidnappings, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that Iranian officials have advised Hizballah to avoid a confrontation with Amal. An UNRWA spokesman cited by Beirut radio announced UNRWA's decision to withdraw eight officials from Lebanon and to transfer the other four to East Beirut. UNRWA's reconstruction work in the Beirut refugee camps will be shelved.

Sudan

A spokesman for the SPLM-SPLA "dismissed" the government's claim that 105 SPLA soldiers and a European were killed in two recent battles over relief barges en route to Malakal, the clandestine SPLA radio reported. The rebel spokesman also charged that the barges were being used to transport soldiers rather than food.

Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. 'Responsibility' in Mideast Assessed

PM221547 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Feb 88 p 9

['Abd al-Rahman al-'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shubayli article: "And What About U.S. Responsibility?"]

[Excerpts] No matter how much we try to reduce the tone of our language concerning the U.S. positions on the Palestine issue—the Middle East issue—we cannot accept or justify them, be it from an international standpoint or from a legal, moral, or humanitarian standpoint, or even from the standpoint of current or future U.S. interests.

Ever since world Zionism sank its teeth into the neck of U.S. foreign policy, especially its policy toward the Middle East (and we will not discuss anything else), and irrespective of all the presidents who have come and gone, from the Truman era up to the era of the current President Ronald Reagan, U.S. policy has stumbled about in the region without any equilibrium. [passage omitted]

We would like to leave behind all this dark history and look today, after 40 years, at the U.S. position. And we all know that the United States voted in favor of Resolution No 242 in 1967, a resolution which does not recognize the military occupation of the Arab territories following the 1967 war. It also voted in favor of Resolution No 252, which concerns the issue of Jerusalem. The Security Council adopted Resolution NO 252 at its 1,426th session 21 May 1968 and condemned Israel's failure to withdraw from the occupied territories, Jerusalem in particular. It also states that all administrative legislation, measures, and conduct pursued by Israel, including the seizure of land and property and the changing of Jerusalem's legal status, is null and void and uncapable of changing that status. It also calls on Israel to abrogate immediately the measures it has actually adopted and refrain immediately from undertaking any other action.

These resolutions and the preceding and succeeding ones have been ignored by the United States during various presidencies, particularly during the current Presidency of Ronald Reagan (which is drawing to a close). So, where is the equilibrium referred to by U.S. representatives whenever a situation arising from the Israeli practices in the occupied territories and Jerusalem is discussed? Does logic require us Arabs and the entire world to remain silent and accept the illegal Israeli presence in any part of the land of Palestine? Does the U.S. equilibrium require us to accept these practices perpetrated by Israel even inside Arab Jerusalem and inside the territories occupied after 1967, as the United States had previously voted were illegal?

Must we accept this and similar instances because the United States (especially the political administration) gives in to Zionist pressure and blackmail inside the United States, even inside Congress, where the decisions are drafted by the Zionists and implemented without moral, legal, or humanitarian equilibrium by U.S. administrations? [passage omitted]

How can the American conscience in this century permit the American people's policy and interests to proceed in such a shameful and scandalous way against truth, justice, freedom, and democracy, those concepts and values for which, and only for which, something called the United States and the American people were established? Where now are the ideas, examples, slogans, and constitutions of George Washington, of Lincoln, of Jefferson, of Wilson, and of Martin Luther King. Where now are the human rights, human freedoms, and the rights of nations? Why? What have all the Arabs done against U.S. interests from its founding up until today, or even against its allies? However, what has the United States done to itself that it stands day after day against itself and against UN resolutions for which it has itself voted?

Does the United States consider Israel's presence in Jerusalem, Sinai, Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon as one of Zionism's sovereign and legitimate rights, so that it finds no justification to condemn its actions, aggression, wars, and crimes against peaceful, steadfast, hungry, and downtrodden civilians? Despite all this, how could we be asked to be evenhanded while we do not possess enough freedom on our own land, with its long history, even to declare our rejection of this barbaric Zionist presence backed by all the material and military power of the U.S. Treasury, which belongs to the American people? If not, then how do we justify the U.S. vote in the Security Council whenever proposals are submitted condemning Israel's immoral, inhumane, and illegal practices since 1967 against the entire population of the occupied Arab territories, and thereafter in southern Lebanon?

Would it not be right, just, and balanced for the United States to urge Israel to at least withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon? On that day the United States can and ought to pull its weight in order to achieve peace in the Middle East, and on that day what methods are used will not matter. [passage omitted]

How do U.S. politicians justify a person like Rabbi Meir Kahane, the American Jew born in Brooklyn, New York, capital of the United Nations, who enjoys U.S. nationality and all the human rights in the land of the American people without any harassment or persecution, while the "America of Democracy" shuts its eyes to the separation of four Palestinians from their wives, children, land, and their legitimate right to reject the Zionist occupation and

its barbaric practices? Who should more rightly be asked to take a balanced stand, all the Arabs, the Zionists, or the United States of America, the upholder of human rights?

All Arabs, without exception, do not want a single cent from the American people's treasury; they merely want justice and truth so that they can have better relations with the United States. In fact, and despite everything now, they are adding to the American people's treasury rather than decreasing it. All Arab people truly desire to go hand in hand with the American people in creating and building an advanced, cooperative, and peaceful life, filled with mutual interests and cooperation. What more shall we say? We say the following: We would accept a United States statement to the whole world in which it clarifies the extent of its interests and how much its treasury is benefiting from the Arabs, and the extent of the unlawful spending by the U.S. Treasury in support of the continuing Zionist oppression and terrorism on the land of the Arabs. How much does it profit from the Arabs? And how much is it losing to Israel? And that is all.

Arabsat Director Discusses Satellite Affairs

JN222110 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1955 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Dubayy, 22 Feb (WAKH)—Meetings of the board of directors of the Arab Space Telecommunications Cooperation, Arabsat, began today to pave the way for meetings of the corporation's general assembly, which will be held in Damascus in April. Delegates from nine Arab countries, including the GCC states, are participating in the meetings, which will last 4 days. The meetings will discuss a number of topics, including the corporation's financial situation and the preparation of a report, which will be submitted to the general assembly's meetings. These meetings will also discuss the design of and planning for the second generation satellites expected after 1992. Moreover, the meetings will discuss the results of the conference of the officials in charge of operations at the Arab departments.

Following the meeting, Engineer 'Abd al-Qadir Bu'ayri, director of the Riyadh-based Arabsat, stated that this project has strategic importance in serving the Arab nation and makes available the introduction of world technology to the Arab states within a short period of time. Eng 'Abd al-Qadir Bu'ayri pointed out that the Arabsat officials decided to train Arabs on the operation procedures. Since 1 January this year, Arabsat has been operated by Arab hands. Engineers and technicians comprise 80 percent of the officials in charge of the center, which controls satellites from Riyadh, and is, along with the reserve station, completely run by Arab employees, he said.

He added that 50 percent of the Arab satellite's capability is currently being utilized to extend domestic services, whereas 25 percent is being utilized to extend regional services. He pointed to the increase in exchanging television programs. The average daily transmission via Arabsat is 2-3 hours, whereas the average daily reception among the Arab states is [figure indistinct]. He also pointed to the studies on expanding exchanges to include cultural and scientific topics, as well as the reception of programs transmitted from abroad, and coordination among the Arab states to distribute such programs. He explained that presently Arabsat is in contact with Turkey concerning marketing services outside the Arab states.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Denies Reports of Meeting With Shultz

JN221743 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] A responsible information source in the PLO has stated the following:

News agencies have quoted AL-SANNARAH, a Nazareth-based newspaper, as saying that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has named seven Palestinian figures from the occupied territories to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz.

The PLO categorically denies these false and fabricated reports, which some foreign circles are trying to exploit to make certain insinuations to facilitate Shultz' visit to the region, which is aimed at aborting our people's uprising through U.S. schemes against our people—schemes Shultz is trying to sell in the slave market in the region.

Visiting Shultz Seeks 'To Shed More' Blood

JN202029 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1625 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Did it occur to earlier Americans, including George Washington who was leading his country in the war of liberation against British colonialism, that the slogans of freedom, equity, and justice they planted would be reaped by Reagan, Shultz, and former U.S. Administration heads in the form of repression, annihiliation, and terrorism against peoples who wage a just struggle for their freedom and for ending occupation, domination, hegemony, repression, and humiliation?

Did those Americans, who sacrificed their dear blood for the independence of the United States, also think a day would come when the United States itself would shed blood with prior planning and with determination in more than one world region and when the United States would carry out the ugliest concealment of the Zionist murderers who perpetrated Nazi crimes against the defenseless Palestinian people in occupied Palestine? These Zionist murderers are also carrying out state terrorism against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied

homeland and outside the occupied homeland, such as the assassination of three Palestinian leaders in Cyprus a few days ago and the blowing up of the boat of return at a Cypriot port.

Undoubtedly, at its worst the United States has prior knowledge, if not being the motive, the planner, and the helper as it was during the Hammam al-Shatt raid. The charge against the United States is confirmed by all logic. If Israel is a state that is added to the United States, then the United States itself is the source of terrorism, killings, and crime and is the primary perpetrator whose hand is stained with Palestinian martyrs' blood. Likewise, if Israel is the U.S. policeman's stick in the region, then the same description applies in this regard.

However, if the United States is only a superpower that combats terrorism and seeks to uproot it, we do not think it would fail to judge, assess, or interpret information or turn a blind eye so it would consider a Palestinian stonethrower, who has nothing but his bare chest, a terrorist at a time when it considers the racist Zionist soldiers, who open fire, martyr people, deprive Palestinians of security, and usurp the land, rightful in their practices to the extent that the United States alone supports Israel against the whole world. Moreover, the United States has even gone beyond this support and closed the PLO office at the United Nations. The United States has no right to do so.

After all this, Shultz will come to the region amid the welcome of those circles that have persistently wagered on the United States which further humiliates these circles whenever the latter increase their subjugation to the United States. Shultz will come to try to do something of no concern to the Palestinians. He will also come to save the Israelis from their dilemma, gain time in their favor, and sponsor their terrorism with his tricks. We do not welcome Shultz who seeks to shed more of our blood. We do not expect Shultz to heal our wounds. We do not welcome the wagerers because what they are doing is not a wager but humiliation.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 8

JN221912 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Call No 8 issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising—date, place not given]

[Text] O the masses of the revolution in the occupied homeland, O you who soar high in the sky and and trample tryanny under foot, O you who achieved victory over the machine of death and the batons of the criminal Rabin, O you who make sacrifices to plant the tree of the future: You have put the colonialist rulers of Tel Aviv in a suffocating isolation and in continued international condemnation. You and your martyrs are challenging the enemy's geenrals, killers of children and pregnant women, who are revealing their ugly faces so that Israel's real racism and repression is exposed before the world.

The uprising has revealed the factors of victory. Through unity, unified action, determination, and escalation and through tightening pressure on the enemy [words indistinct] the PLO, the occupation can be defeated. Your enemy and its government, army, and settlers are confused. Their daily losses are estimated at millions of dollars as a result of the uprising. Work stoppage and strikes are also going on despite feverish attempts through their media to concentrate on our losses. Despite their lethal weapons they have sustained hundreds of casualties.

On political and propaganda levels, the enemy sustained much greater losses. Through your uprising and unity you have reactivated the issue of your people after a long period of stagnation. Go ahead. Neither dwarfs nor fascists like Sharon, Shamir, Peres, and Rabin can destroy your will. The more martyrs that fall, the more you approach the day of victory to regain your just rights by defeating the occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. We have no choice but to escalate the uprising. The beast is tired, do not allow it to catch its breath.

O our struggle people, what is happening in our homeland is a glimpse of hope that victory will be achieved. Tighten the noose around every corrupt den to liberate our cities, villages, and camps. It is a flood clearing away all dirt and treacherous people. The Palestinian giant has awakened and will not bow, as the Tel Aviv rulers and their American masters hope. We will not retreat and our revolution and uprising will not be aborted, as Murphy tried and as Shultz is trying though their distorted project. Our people reject their project and their suspect visit.

Hence, we warn against any attempt to foil our unprising and we urge our masses to besiege and defeat the capitulatory elements who respond to Rabin's plans and the U.S. State Department. It is a rocky path, but it is the only trusted path. Let the revolutionary wave escalate in new steps. Let us deprive the occupation of its domination through the efforts of the unified leadership and the heroes of stones and Molotovs.

Let us boycott its organs, projects, and goods as much as we can to double its economic, political, human, and moral losses and to render its losses much greater than its profits. Only then will the enemy leave our lands. Then we will return to our lands to cultivate them. They are a source of good for all people. Many basic needs can be secured from a small area of land before your house. This will raise your income, support your steadfastness, and decrease the burden of life under the occupation. Such house farms and some animals can be provided easily. Let us recall that the vietnamese achieved victory over the United States not through the rifle alone, but also through farming.

O masses of our giant people, O masses of the PLO, the unified national leadership greets you and presses on your hands and calls for:

1. Showing a sweeping popular anger in the face of Shultz, the envoy of U.S. imperialism, who is carrying a new support for Zionists and conspiratorial plans against our people. Our masses should respond to his visit and projects with more escalation and rejection.

2. Monday, 22 February, is the day of national solidarity. People are asked to come en masse to the graves of the martyrs and to the families of the martyrs and the wounded detainees for solidarity with them and to help them.

3. On Tuesday, 23 February, a mass hunger strike until 1800 and sit-down strikes at the offices of the Red Crescent, Palestinian women's organizations, and other institutions.

4. On Wednesday and Thursday, 24 and 25 February, a general strike, self-imposed curfews paralyzing traffic and communication. People are also asked not to leave unless necessary. Main streets and alleys to be closed.

5. Friday, 26 February, is the day of popular Palestinian solidarity. People of all ages are asked to gather in mosques, streets, and roofs from 1300 to 1400. Flags to be hoisted and national slogans chanted such as: Allahu Akbar; we sacrifice our souls and blood for Palestine; we will sacrifice our souls and blood for the martyrs; Palestine is an Arab, national unity.

6. Saturday, 27 February, is the day for curfew violations. The masses will take to the streets at 1200. Neighboring areas will help our rebellious kinfolk in besieged areas.

7. On Sunday and Monday, 28 and 29 February, let us escalate all forms of struggle. Our national institutions should collect donations and financial and other assistance to be distributed in nearby areas.

O our popular masses, deepen your heroic uprising and destroy the occupation. Escalate your solidarity and unity, which have been written with blood. Let us decide to escalate the uprising and achieve more victories and make preparations for launching an advanced program to achieve clear-cut gains and achievements over the camp of our enemies. We greet our angry masses.

Glory to our righteous martyrs. Appreciation for our wounded and prisoners. Love to all mothers of the homeland. Militant salutes to the heroic Arab masses in the occupied Golan, the masses of steadfastness and sacrifice. Greetings to our Lebanese-Palestinian masses who are destroying the enemy's arrogance on the heroic Lebanese territory. Be ready for the next step. We pledge we will be with you on the path of victory.

[Signed] The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, the PLO

Fatah's Khalaf Cited on Operations Abroad

JN210803 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0720 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, 21 Feb (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has stated that the Palestinian revolution will not allow itself to be dragged into battles outside the occupied territories. He added that Israel hopes and plans for this in an attempt to highlight these battles and divert attention from the popular uprising in the occupied territories by speaking about Palestinian terrorism.

In a statement to AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ published in today's issue, Salah Khalaf said that the assassination of the three Palestinian cadres in Cyprus and the blowing up of the ship of return are an extension of a series of terrorist actions Israel has carried out abroad through Mosad.

Khalaf said: We know that Israel, which has been cornered by the popular uprising, seeks to drag us into a battle outside the occupied territories so it may once again speak about Palestinian terrorism, especially since we all know that the foreign press does not highlight or speak about the operations carried out by Mosad.

U.S. Expulsion of Palestinian Criticized

NC222204 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo, has described as a grave precedent the U.S. decision to expel Palestinian citizen Fu'ad al- Rasidi on the grounds that he collaborated with the PLO. Al-Qidrah said this decision will subject Palestinians residing in the United States to deportation on charges of belonging to the PLO.

In a statement to MENA tonight, Al-Qidrah said that in support of its decision to expel the Palestinian citizen, the U.S. Immigration Department cited a law passed in 1952 which gives the administration the right to deport those accused of communism. This law, he pointed out, was amended in 1987 to include Nazi Party and PLO members. Al-Qidrah added that the U.S. decision is not surprising. It is in line with the hostile U.S. policy toward the PLO and with the attorney general's decision to close the organization's office at the United Nations and the Congress' decision to shut down the PLO offices in Washington and New York, he stated.

Al-Quds Radio on 'Deterrent' to U.S. Plans

JN221432 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1209 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Commentary by Al-Quds Radio political editor: "An Answer to Doubt-Casting Questions"]

[Text] Brother strugglers: Mr George Shultz is coming to our Arab region with a plan that has one aim and one purpose. Very briefly that sole aim is to find ways to

rescue the Zionist entity from its present imbroglio. Mr George Shultz and President Reagan were not thinking of the Palestinian Arab people and will never think of them. The U.S. envoy to our region is not bringing anything new with him. All what he is bringing is a proofed edition of the autonomy mentioned in the traitorous Camp David accords.

Brother strugglers, voices have been raised asking questions that seek to cast doubts rather than seek to find correct answers. Among such doubt-casting questions we cite the following examples: What good will stubbornness do? A bird in hand is better than 10 in the bush. What harm will it do if we meet U.S. proposals halfway? Why should we not then develop the U.S. stand?

Brother strugglers, the answer to such questions and others clarifies the difference between two ways of thinking. The first way of thinking is that of those who have no perseverence, those who want to ride on the bandwagon of the uprising to facilitate their dealing with the U.S. settlement. The second way of thinking is shared by our new generation who by practical experience have learned that the U.S.-Zionist enemy knows only the language of confrontation and therefore they are continuing the uprising.

Thus our answer to such doubt-casting questions is: When our people opted for the path of confrontation they did so after they had experienced U.S. policy, they became tired of U.S. shuttle trips, and learned that all the U.S. objectives in our region can be summed up in that the United States wants to protect its strategic ally, the Zionist entity, and everything else is meant as a distraction to cover the sole U.S. objective in our region.

Brother strugglers, despite the present uproar over Mr George Shultz' visit to our Arab region, we have full confidence in our youths and men in Palestine. We have confidence in their ability to translate their rejection of the U.S. plans into practice by escalating the uprising during Shultz' visit to Palestine. We, brother strugglers, are confident that our heroes in the slingshot forces and the stone-throwing heroes are capable of what Mr Shultz wants.

Brother strugglers, we have confidence in our men, the leaders of Palestine, and in their patriotism. Their firm stands were the real deterrent against all past U.S. plans and will be the deterrent against all future U.S. plans. God is with us. Victory is near. Together along the path of liberating the land and Man.

Al-Quds. The Palestinian Arab Radio on the path of liberating the land and man. Test transmission.

Algeria

APS Criticizes U.S. Stand on Palestinians

LD211310 Algiers APS in English 1138 GMT 21 Feb 88

["Shultz Tour and the Right of Palestinians"—APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 21 February (APS)—The heroic Palestinian popular uprising, which is in its third month, seems to have reached the point of no return.

One of the direct consequences of this uprising which has shaken the foundations of the Zionist entity is the necessity, which has been clearly perceived by the international community, to find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian question.

On another hand and in the same context, new regional and international political initiatives appeared, some of them aimed at paving the way for the holding of an international peace conference, others trying, in their manner to defuse the situation in order to maintain the fait accompli, namely the guarantee of the Zionist occupation and the negation of the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people which have been internationally recognized.

It is from these new evolutions that appeared on the Middle Eastern scene that political observers see the next tour of the American secretary of state in the area. This tour which will start on February 24, will include occupied Palestine, Jordan, Egypt and probably Saudi Arabia.

In absence of any new initiative or proposal of the United States that is not accompanied with credibility and that does not first take into account the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people (mainly their right to self-determination and the creation of a sovereign state on their own land), any American discourse on the Middle-East peace would only be a mere opinion.

It would be more judicious to any sides desirous to contribute in the setting up of a lasting, just and global peace, to be impregnated with the situation and take into account reality and recognize PLO to which the Palestinian people have not [word indistinct] through their heroic uprising to revindicate their belonging as their sole and legitimate representative.

It is regrettable that the United States pretends to ignore this reality in spite of the new evolutions of the Palestinian popular uprising. Worse than that, it persists in going against the current of events.

The closing of the PLO representation at the UN, the closing of the Palestinian Information Bureau in Washington, the latest U.S. veto at the UN Security Council and the non-denunciation by the USA of Zionist terrorist practices and the assassinations of Palestinian officials in other sides of the world by Mosad, fall in the American logics [as received] which goes against the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Morocco-Israel 'Imposed' Solutions Rejected

LD211131 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Feb 88

["Tel Aviv Asks for Help From Rabat"—APS headline]

[Text] Algiers, 21 Feb (APS)—Morocco's special treatment of Israeli figures shows it is leaning toward an imposed capitulatory solution to the Middle East problem. If this is not the case, then what is the meaning and purpose of their exchange of visits?

Tel Aviv radio is enthusiastically broadcasting the news of the visit by an Israeli delegation to Morocco, which will be paid before the end of this month, to use the king of Morocco in propagating Israeli solutions to the conflict.

Even Rafi Edre, Labor leader in the Zionist entity's parliament, proposed holding an international seminar supported by the king of Morocco and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

It is well known that there is a close relationship between this Israeli figure and the Rabat authorities, and that both sides are working toward imposing solutions, Camp David style, on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

From the beginning, the popular uprising caused diplomatic noises by some parties, whose proposals and efforts increased in an attempt to diminish the effects of the Palestinian people's struggle.

We should not forget that the first lines of the Camp David accords were drawn up as those in Morocco in 1978 between Moshe Dayan and the Rabat regime and the meeting between Shim'on Peres and Hassan II in January 1986 came to consecrate the goal of excluding the PLO from all peace initiatives in the Middle East.

The proof of that is the fact that the Moroccan monarch has said: I sincerely advise the PLO to accept Resolution 242.

In an interview with the Egyptian weekly AL-MUSAWWAR, he also stated that the situation in the occupied territories "is similar to the situation of an infant who needs better conditions to grow and become strong."

It is well known that Resolution 242 includes depriving the Palestinians of all that is left for them, which is their dignity and that they are a people and not a mass of refugees, as this resolution said.

This resolution was firmly rejected by the PNC held in Algiers, which stressed that there is no solution to the problem without recognizing the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state in Palestine under PLO supervision.

In the face of the lessons of heroism taught every day by the Palestinian people to the Zionist enemy, especially since the beginning of the blessed uprising, all the claims and suspicions of those who wanted to violate this revolution and this heroic people collapse.

Briefs

Romania's Giosan Visits

Earlier this afternoon the prime minister received the president of the Romanian Grand National Assembly, Mr. Nicolae Giosan, who is on an official visit to Algeria. They discussed ways and means of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the common interest. Mr Giosan had talks this morning with Mr Rabah Bitat, the speaker of the People's National Assembly. They reviewed bilateral relations and international questions. The talks, which were subsequently extended to Algerian and Romanian parliamentary delegations, will resume on Tuesday. [Text] [*Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 Feb 88 LD*]

Ambassador to USSR

The Soviet Government has just given its approval of the appointment of Mr Mohammad Yala as Algerian ambassador to the Soviet Union. [Text] [*Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 Feb 88 LD*]

Egypt

Dailies View Shultz Tour, Israeli Reaction

NC230918 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2222 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—In their editorials tomorrow, Tuesday, both AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM comment on the tour that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will make to a number of Middle East countries during which he will present the new U.S. ideas to solve the problems of the region and help restore peace to it.

AL-AKHBAR welcomes Shultz' tour and says it indicates that President Reagan's administration is truly interested in the Middle East problems. These problems have turned the area into a raging furnace and a stage for terrorist and barbaric tragedies and actions committed by one of its countries against a people who have been subjected to the most repugnant treatment for the last 40 years.

The paper appeals to Shultz, while visiting the occupied Palestinian territories and witnessing the crimes and human rights violations committed there, to forget he is a member in the government of a country which is the ally of the perpetrators of these actions and to instead consider himself only as a human being whose conscience does not allow him to remain silent over the inhuman actions he will see for himself and which have roused the anger of public opinion all over the world.

It also calls on the U.S. secretary of state to express a frank and unbiased opinion on what is taking place in the West Bank and Gaza and to find time in his schedule to visit the hospitals containing the victims of violent acts unprecedented anywhere in the world, just as some other officials from countries that are allied to the United States did and whose conscience and human feelings compelled them to denounce what they had seen in the refugee camps, as well as the Israeli authorities' extremism in treating the population.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR stresses that Shultz' tour will reveal how real are the changes reported to have taken place in the U.S. stand and the extent of confidence we can place in any new initiatives proposed by Washington.

AL-AHRAM writes about Israel's mobilization of more troops to repress the revolutionary Palestinian uprising before Shultz' trip. It expects Israel's attempt to repress the uprising during this tour to fail, as the theory of mobilization had already fallen during fatuous attempts to eliminate the uprising based on the premise that it was merely ordinary rioting. Israeli officials have recently been forced to admit that they are facing an uprising by an entire people. It adds that increasing the number of the occupation forces during the visit will be futile because this in itself constitutes an incentive to mobilize the Palestinian side's forces and escalate their activities.

AL-AHRAM says that Shultz himself will be aware of the situation, even if Israel falsifies the facts before its visitors and even if some of them deny these facts.

The paper stresses that this military reinforcement constitutes a danger to long-term Israeli unity. It will allow more troops to grasp from their daily experiences the facts of the situation. It gives evidence of excessive stupidity because it will make the ordinary Israeli citizen ask: How and why did matters end up like this and how long will this last?

Reagan Called Upon To Take 'Courageous' Stand

NC190744 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR expresses the hope that the United States will shoulder its responsibilities, not only as a great power but as the biggest and strongest country in the world, and translate its declared statements into actions that will underline its seriousness, sincerity, and true desire to have peace prevail in a region where any tension affects the peace of the entire world.

The paper says that no matter how much the U.S. Administration tries to justify its stands of support for Israel, whether the latter is right or wrong, or tries to appear as incapable of exerting pressure on their leaders and convince them that the Israeli policy is wrong and is irritating the entire international community, no one will believe these flimsy excuses which hide a constant U.S. policy that protects Tel Aviv and defends its crimes.

The paper notes that President Ronald Reagan has an opportunity to immortalize his name along with those of the great U.S. presidents who had supported freedom and were committed to a policy based on justice and fairness. It adds that those presidents gave their country the image of a state that defends human freedom everywhere. Reagan, it says, can restore this image to his country if he decides to take a courageous and fair stand that would restore to the Palestinian people their homeland, freedom, and dignity.

UN's Goulding Confers with 'Abd al-Majid

NC221519 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abdal-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, this morning. The two officials discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the prospects for a just and overall peace in the area.

After the meeting, Goulding said that there is an opportunity to bring about a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through cooperation among all the parties concerned.

Goulding said that the current situation is unstable and that this must be changed. He noted that the United Nations has, through UN Security Council resolutions, expressed its condemnation of Israeli practices against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, but he added that the implementation of these resolutions requires a minimum level of cooperation among the parties concerned with this problem.

Goulding said that he believes the Palestinian uprising has brought into sharper focus the necessity of resolving the present situation. He stated that the current developments are fully understood by Israel and the United States.

The UN under secretary general mentioned that his present tour is a follow-up to his visits last month to Israel and the occupied territories, and that its aim is to provide the UN secretary general with a full and updated account of the situation. He said that he will continue his talks with those governments concerned with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Goulding also stated that the UN secretary general has exerted diligent efforts to bring about the release of persons kidnapped in Lebanon.

It is worth noting that Goulding arrived in Cairo yesterday. His 2-day visit to Egypt is part of a regional tour which includes Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Sidqi, GDR's Florin Review Mideast Situation

NC222037 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Tonight Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Peter Florin, current president of the UN General Assembly and GDR deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is visiting Egypt.

At the meeting, the conferees discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the Palestinian issue in light of President Husni Mubarak's recent peace initiative. The talks also dealt with the situation in the Gulf and the UN role in solving these problems through peaceful means. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Florin arrived in Cairo on Saturday on a 3-day visit.

Reportage on Visit by Mauritian Prime Minister

Meets With Prime Minister

NC181403 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Official talks began between Egypt and Mauritius in the prime minister's office this morning. The talks started with a private meeting between Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth, after which both countries' delegations joined the meeting.

Following the meeting, Dr Sidqi stated that the Mauritian prime minister reiterated his country's support for President Husni Mubarak's initiative and stressed the need to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem. He also affirmed that an international conference must be held to establish peace in the region.

The Mauritian prime minister also asserted his country's support for UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war. He expressed his country's appreciation for the efforts being made in this regard.

Dr Sidqi desclosed that the two sides discussed the situation in Africa and the problems facing certain African countries, particularly South Africa. They also discussed Egypt's role in supporting the OAU and finding peaceful settlements to border disputes among certain African countries.

Dr Sidqi noted that the discussion also dealt with bilateral relations, particularly in the field of increasing the volume of trade exchange and the possibility of signing an equal-sided trade transaction by early March.

Dr Sidqi concluded by pointing out that the joint economic committee will hold a meeting in the Mauritian capital in mid-April to discuss the bolstering of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Mubarak

NC211121 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth today. The meeting was also attended by Dr Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad and head of the escort mission.

Concludes Visit 22 Feb

NC221029 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth and his delegation left Cairo this morning, winding up a 6-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Jugnauth also held talks with Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and a number of high-ranking officials on international, Arab, and African issues of mutual interest. Talks centered on the Palestinian cause and the uprising in the occupied territories.

Jugnauth was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Sidqi and other high-ranking officials. [passage omitted]

'Abd al-Majid on Foreign Policy, Mubarak Tour

NC212011 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized the success of Egypt's moves in the Arab, European, and U.S. arenas through Presient Husni Mubarak's recent tour. He stated that the Egyptian ideas achieved a great success by any criteria and that they were received with understanding and support in all the countries that President Mubarak visited.

'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak spoke strongly and frankly with U.S. officials on the importance of reaching a permanent and just solution to the Middle East problem, a solution that would enable the Palestinians to obtain their legitimate rights. Mubarak stressed that an international conference for peace is the only way to achieve this goal and that participation in this conference by the Soviet Union and Syria is essential.

In a statement delivered this evening before a joint meeting of the People's Assembly Arab, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and National Security Committees under Dr Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the Arab Affairs Committee, 'Abd al-Majid referred to the forthcoming visit to Egypt of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. He welcomed the visit and any U.S. plan for peace in the Middle East that Shultz may bring with him, provided it contains the elements for finding a final and comprehensive resolution of the issue through an international conference for peace and that it avoids the autonomy formula outlined in the Camp David agreements.

Discussing the intensive Egyptian efforts in the Arab and international arenas and their effects on national and pan-Arab issues, 'Abd al-Majid stressed that President Mubarak's visits to the Gulf countries achieved their goal. He noted that the visits came after the Arab summit conference in Amman, which resulted in the restoration of diplomatic relations between the majority of Arab countries and Egypt. He pointed out that Mubarak's tour strongly and clearly emphasized Egypt's return to its pioneer role in the Arab world.

"This role comes naturally, without fabrication or claims, because it stems from Egypt's intrinsic potential and strength as well as from the wisdom and sound vision of the Egyptian leadership," he stated. The tour proved beyond any doubt that Egypt takes a firm stand in support of the Arab brothers in the Gulf and is greatly concerned about the security of this vital region, given the fact that Gulf security is linked to Egypt's national security.

'Abd al-Majid explained that the tour enabled the Egyptian leadership to consult with the Gulf leaders and hear about the situation in the region at first hand. After discussions and exchanges of view with these leaders the Egyptian leadership became more convinced that the fraternal Gulf countries are quite capable of confronting the dangers facing them and of defending their territory and people with their own resources. Egypt, he added, will always be ready to support and back these countries.

It has become clear, he said, that there is an urgent need to end the grinding ongoing war between Iraq and Iran, stop the bloodshed between the two Muslim countries, and reach a peaceful solution through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 and support for international efforts for another resolution imposing sanctions on the party that rejects full implementation of this unanimous resolution.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that President Mubarak's Gulf tour emphasized the importance of the economic relations between Egypt and the Gulf states. Ways to develop these relations on the basis of mutual benefit and common interest were discussed. The ground was prepared for Egypt's return to the Arab Funds for Economic Development. He stated that he will discuss

this subject in detail during a meeting to be held for this purpose in Muscat in April. He pointed out that as a result of its belief in the importance of Egypt's economic relations with the Gulf states, the Egyptian Cabinet decided in the wake of this tour to form a higher committee to pursue all the issues pertaining to these relations.

The committee, to be chaired by the prime minister, will comprise the deputy prime ministers and the appropriate ministers. It was also decided to set up a secretariat for this committee consisting of experts specializing in this field.

Referring to President Mubarak's European and U.S. tours, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt's action on the international level supplemented its action on the Arab level and was reinforced by its momentum and results. He said that the purpose of the president's visits to European countries and the United States was to urge these countries to make immediate efforts to deal with the serious conditions in the occupied territories resulting from the continuing Israeli occupation.

The president also sought, he continued, to convince them that the Palestinian popular uprising is not a passing or a transient event that can be ignored, but a genuine popular revolution that has its own significance and implications. It has upset all calculations, he said. During his visits, the president also urged these states to take swift action to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East, and to work for a concrete solution of all the aspects of the Palestinian issue in order to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive settlement guaranteeing the Palestinian people's sacred right to self-determination.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the initiative President Mubarak put forward on the eve of his tour had an important impact and great effect in convincing these states of the seriousness of the situation and of the need for action. He explained that this initiative, in its content and timing, was designed to utilize the Palestinian uprising in order to end the international deadlock, focus the eyes of the world on the Palestinian people's tragedy and the need to pay it the attention it deserves, obtain tangible positive results from this event, and accord the Palestinian issue its appropriate place on the agenda of the international community.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that these were the practical and noble aims of the initiative that Egypt launched. It would have been easier for Egypt to resort instead to the verbal oneupmanship pursued by some who have been making statements of support, sympathy, and condemnation. However, Egypt's position was consistent with its desired role, which has been characterized on all occasions and in all circumstances by responsibility and selflessness. Egypt's position was based on objective analysis of all the factors and on the need to take the initiative to push matters in the right direction without upsetting the principled pan-Arab views and positions.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also discussed the success of Egyptian efforts in the European and American arenas. He said that in the FRG, German officials declared their support for the Egyptian initiative and their conviction that an international conference should be convened. They also declared their condemnation of the iron-fist policy Israel is pursuing in the occupied Arab territories.

In the UK, the president received every support for his wise policy from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The British opposition leaders also expressed to his excellency their condemnation of Israel's policy and emphasized that the British House of Commons is united in opposing Israel's suppressive measures.

He added that the leaders of both France and Italy expressed their support for the president's initiative, for the need to give momentum to the peace efforts, and for the early convening of an international conference. He said that President Mubarak's visit to the Vatican and his meeting with Pope John Paul II was an important event, in view of the pope's tremendous spiritual and moral influence on world public opinion.

Dr 'Abd al-majid noted that during his visit to fraternal Morocco, President Mubarak was given a warm official and popular reception, the likes of which had never been accorded a visiting head of state. During the president's visit, an agreement was reached on forming a joint committee under the cochairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries. This committee will hold its first meeting in Cairo in April.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid also alluded to the welcome President Mubarak received in Greece and Turkey. He emphasized the importance of the role which Greece will play in the near future when it assumes the presidency of the EC on 1 June. He said that the importance of our strong relations with Turkey is obvious and was confirmed again during the Turkish prime minister's recent visit to Cairo.

As for President Mubarak's visit to the United States, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said, the warm welcome which the president received from the U.S. Administration, both the House of Representatives and the Senate, intellectual circles, and the media was truly impressive.

He stated that this interest reflects the extent of U.S. respect and appreciation for Egypt's leading role and for the president's efforts on behalf of peace, stability, and moderation in the Middle East region.

'Abd al-Majid spoke about his meeting with Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah, who visited the United States and met with Secretary of State Shultz. He

said: I told them that the Egyptian initiative is an indivisible whole. Its aim is to create an atmosphere conducive to promoting the peace process and to urge the U.S. Administration to take steps toward a final resolution of the problem that will fulfill legitimate Palestinian aspirations.

He referred to an article by Sinyurah in THE WASHINGTON POST praising the role of Egypt and President Mubarak in the efforts to resolve the Middle East problem. The article, he said, described his excellency's role as the only sign of hope to emerge from the tense situation in the region, and expressed the Palestinian people's gratitude for Egypt's sincere efforts in the peace process.

'Abd al-Majid went on to say that he met with the representatives of the American Jewish Organization [as received] within the framework of the group called APAC [acronym as received]. He stated he had stressed to them the need for a rapid movement toward a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem and an end to the Israeli occupation so that peace and stability may be safeguarded, particularly since the phenomenon of Arab population growth is a factor that Israel must bear very much in mind.

'Abd al-Majid emphasized that the great and sincere efforts that President Mubarak exerted during his visit to the United States have resulted in this important shift in U.S. thinking and public opinion on the serious situation in the occupied Arab territory and repressive Israeli methods that go against all human values. He noted the new ideas put forward by the U.S. Administration to reach a permanent solution of the Middle East problem. He said that, regardless of the final form of these ideas, which have not yet crystallized, what is striking is that the U.S. move comes during an election year. It has not been postponed until after the election, he pointed out.

In addition, he continued, for the first time the United States is talking about a final stage of a settlement of the Middle East problem and saying that the solution must be based on the principle of land in exchange for peace. All these factors constitute new elements in the U.S. position. 'Abd al-Majid stated that from the moment these ideas were presented, Egypt has sought to crystallize them in order to bring them closer to the Arab view. Egypt believes in the need for action to encourage an effective U.S. role in solving the issue. He stressed that we must not miss any opportunity for a just settlement. In assessing these ideas, he said Egypt is eager to maintain constant consultations and full coordination with Jordan, the PLO, and the other Arab brothers.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd al-Majid asserted: I am glad to say that President Mubarak's meetings and intensive contacts with political circles and the various economic establishments in Europe and the United States have been very effective in persuading them of the soundness of Egypt's approach to its national problems; they have helped them realize the extent of our serious efforts to bring about reforms in the domestic economy. These results will open the doors for further fruitful economic cooperation with these countries, positively affect domestic economic development, and benefit all the Egyptian people, he declared.

Abu Ghazalah on U.S. Ties, Gulf, Israel

JN221701 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
18 Feb 88 pp 22, 23

[Interview with Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, by Jamil al-Bajuri and Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-ANBA']: Field Marshal, the fleets massing in the Gulf waters, the failure of the UN Security Council and the big powers in compelling Iran to implement Resolution No 598, and the sweeping Palestinian uprising that detonated popular resentment against Israeli occupation—is there any connection between these events, the Egyptian peace initiative, and the insistence of the Arab states on the convening of the international peace conference?

[Abu Ghazalah]: These are secondary phenomena that have in common a general phenomenon affecting our entire region. That phenomenon is the use of force and resorting to violence to solve regional problems. We are not now talking about the causes. That would take too long to explain. However, one can say that the frustration of the efforts in the region to achieve stability, peace, and good-neighborliness, and the absence of any hope to end such frustration could turn the use of force and violence into a way of life in our region. If such a situation should persist without remedy the region's strategic, political, and economic relations will become chaotic.

Hence the importance of President Husni Mubarak's initiative. It brings new hope for ending the frustration by replacing force and violence with logic and dialogue. All the parties claim that they want peace and stability. All the parties resort to force, violence, blood, and retaliation to achieve what they want. Is it not better to preserve the blood, funds, the present, and the future so as to give an opportunity to dialogue instead of force?

What kind of logic is it to say we should let our children, youth, and elderly die and our economy be destroyed on the pretext that ending the violence and killing, and initiating a rational dialogue aborts national action?

I believe that those who argue in such a way are giving legitimacy to the terrorism of states that have found it easy to shed blood in the Gulf, in the occupied territory after 1967, and in the rest of the region in which we live.

[AL-ANBA'] Field Marshal, does the balance of power in the region permit a regional settlement of the Middle East crisis?

[Abu Ghazalah] Why do we always try to detract from our intrinsic capabilities? Why do we always try to view the balance of power from a narrow perspective that merely compares the numbers of aircraft, guns, tanks, and ships? The balance of power begins with political effectiveness. Have not the recent days demonstrated the increased clarity of political vision on the part of many area countries? Has not the world clearly seen our political ability in not accepting the fait accompli in the Gulf and with regard to the Palestine question? Have we not convinced the world of the need to act and to give priority to what is taking place in our area, and of the importance of that to us and to the world?

True, efforts are still being made, and a settlement has not yet been achieved. However, we are on the correct path.

Are not the economic, financial, human, and military potential also part of the balance of power? They are all influential factors that play a role and sometimes decide the final result. There are capabilities present and available; however, they are scattered and dispersed. Before we talk about the balance of power we must seriously act to reorganize our capabilities. Then the settlements will impose themselves, and not just one settlement for one issue. [passage omitted]

[AL-ANBA'] Your Excellency the Field Marshal, the "Bright Star" Maneuvers; the planned production of the U.S. M-1 tank; and exempting Egypt, Israeli, and the Philippines from cuts in U.S. foreign military aid—is there any connection among these developments? And does this mean that the military factor is the main one in Egyptian-U.S. relations?

[Abu Ghazalah] This is simply an attempt to obliterate the nature of Egyptian-U.S. relations. It is also an attempt to assess relations in light of aid. This principle can be applied to banks and financial institutions, not to relations among countries. The document, which the U.S. President presents to the American people and Congress in January every year and which defines U.S. ties with other countries, says that the United States tries to create stability in our region to preserve U.S. interests. We agree with it in seeking such stability. The document also explains that the United States tries to expand peace in the region. Again this is an Egyptian goal, and we adhere to it.

The United States also tries to activate its economy and we constitute a huge market that can import from and export to the United States. Hence, Washington extends assistance in other fields besides military maneuvers and military poduction. It believes, and we agree, there that will be no peace, stability, or economic progress without the power to protect them. As a result, military relations between the two countries play a special role. If any differences over goals or means occur, we take action in line with our pan-Arab interests.

[AL-ANBA'] Will the United States assist Egypt in manufacturing and selling weapons and in developing Egyptian military industries? And has the United States responded to Egyptian military needs, as Egypt expects?

[Abu Ghazalah] First, let me put a reservation on the issue of selling weapons. Selling weapons means sending these weapons to any side prepared to pay the price. This is not our political line at all. Economic and financial considerations are not basic in our plan to manufacture weapons. They are only incidental factors. What is basic is national security. The rule in armament security is to produce as much as possible and import as little as possible. We should know that current experience and events in the region assert that weapons help create stability and avoid defeats and concessions, and these, in turn, support political and diplomatic efforts.

Without these facts, any talk about stability, peace, and a new, fair, and balanced regional system is useless. What does military industry need? It needs advanced technology, sound administration, financial capabilities, and trained cadres. We can get all this from the United States to promote Egypt's war industry. What is more important is what we should do together to meet Arab expectations as a whole.

[AL-ANBA'] Isn't it possible for Israel to gain access to our military secrets via the United States?

[Abu Ghazalah] In today's world of advanced communications and proliferation of information, the concept of military secrecy is changing. However, we do take classified military data seriously enough. We are in the business of national security, not planning a football match.

[AL-ANBA'] According to a report by AL-AHRAM's Center for Strategic Studies, joint U.S.-Egyptian excercises give Egypt the advantage of training. On the other hand, the maneuvers give U.S. forces access to Egypt's air defense system, thus compromising it in the event of a conflict between Egyptian and U.S. interests. Given the close military cooperation between the United States and Israel the risk looms even larger. What do you think?

[Abu Ghazalah] I don't see why the question should not be reversed. The excercises provide an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with U.S. military equipment, U.S. defensive and offensive plans, and their tactics in the theater of operations.

[AL-ANBA'] Your Excellency the Field Marshal, the strategic report further says that the exercises are taking place within the framework of a joint operation of the forces—in effect meaning a potential joint U.S.- Egyptian operation in the Arab region. Even discounting this

possibility, what does desert warfare mean? What are we to make of land, air, and seaborne exercises other than being a trial run of joint operation on Arab land?

[Abu Ghazalah] The strategic report in question stresses that the maneuvers are geared to the kind of training reuired to repulse attacks against Egypt and to enhance our land, air, and sea defenses. They are not geared to mounting offensive action—either in the Arab region or elsewhere.

[AL-ANBA'] What is the latest on military debts owed by Egypt to the United States?

[Abu Ghazalah] This problem arose from rising interest rates on military loans Egypt received between 1979 and 1981. What we are receiving now are free military grants. The issue is governed by the status of domestic U.S. loans to individuals and corporations, and by U.S. economic legislation. As far as Egypt is concerned, the debts encumber our economic development process. We are now holding consutlations on all levels with the Americans in order to work out mutually satisfactory solutions. We have already had our debts rescheduled with the Paris Club. [AL-ANBA'] Occasional press reports speak about a possible Egyptian intervention in the Gulf that might help end the Gulf war. Is this a real possibility, and under what conditions would such an intervention take place?

[Abu Ghazalah] Once again I have to take issue, if I may, with your use of the term "Egyptian intervention." President Mubarak has announced that Egypt will never interfere in any conflicts. I think what you have in mind is a probable Egyptian role in the Gulf, which is a different matter. Any Egyptian role will have to be in response to a constitutional, legal call by the country in question.

The Egyptian contribution can take the form of arms supplies and equipment, training expertise, maintenance, repairs, and consultations, as well as being subject to the respective military positions of the combatants. A continuing war of attrition does not necessarily mean that Iraq and Iran are at the end of their tether militarily or economiclly. Nor is it the same as the petroleum war reaching a peak. Hence an ongoing evaluation of what is happening is important to know how Egypt can help if it is asked to do so by the brothers in the Gulf.

[AL-ANBA'] All reports point to an understanding between Tehran and Tel Aviv to put the Arab east between the Iranian anvil and the Israeli hammer. How accurate is this assessment?

[Abu Ghazalah] This may be accurate in the short term, but in the long view, Israel and Iran are woefully wrong. Those who used to argue that the major players in the region were Israel and Iran now know better. Israel now is not quite what it had been before the 1973 October war, the Lebanese invasion, or, for that matter, the Palestinian uprising. Israel's strategic pull and performance have undergone a real change. The military and economic standing of Khomeyni's Iran is not quite the same as it had been before the so-called Islamic revolution. Not to mention Iran's precarious future.

Iran and Israel may help each other out in the short term, but strategically speaking, such a relationship is doomed. This should not be lost on strategic analysts and policy planners. A handful of weapons sent by Israel to Iran or the emigration of Jews from Iran to Israel do not count in deciding strategic issues. Strategic relationships are far more complex than that and a strategic error costs dearly.

[AL-ANBA'] Jordan and the Gulf Arab states are said to have been building a rapid deployment force, which will reportedly be based at a point in northern Saudi Arabia, "Hafr al-Batin." Is Egypt involved in this effort?

[Abu Ghazalah] I haven't heard about this. And anyway I think this is out of the question. [passage omitted]

Energy Minister Abazah Leaves for Paris

NC210723 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Feb (MENA)—Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah left Cairo for Paris this morning for a 4-day official visit. [passage omitted]

Mubarak's Renewed, 'Stronger' Position Welcomed

PM221535 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Feb 88 p 9

[Editorial: "Yes, Your Excellency Mr President, Camp David Is Finished"]

[Text] Like other observers of President Husni Mubarak's movements who are preoccupied with his political way of thinking and his government's conception of the Arab situation, we know very well that the Arab president will one day reach a turning point and say, open-mouthed: Camp David is finished!

He will say it unhesitatingly and fearlessly, drawing his strength from the greatness of our Arab people in Egypt and their long, continuous jihad for their nation and Arabism. It is a jihad which has not let up for one moment, despite the removal of some black clouds in the rostrum incident. The people have returned to their former selves, as Arabs, resisting and fighting despite the oppressive legacy of debts and burdens left behind by the previous regimes.

This took them to the left—to the point of obliterating their personality, freedom, and dignity and to the right—to the point of making them forget their Arabism, their worth, and their role. The people, who are still a source

of Arabism and a mighty tributary of Islam, have remained loyal to their role, their nation, and their history, from which no power can separate them.

The Egyptian president's battle is a battle that he has foreseen and has spoken about on this occasion with his customary frankness and natural, clear-headed simplicity.

He spoke about it previously in the manner of a political orator, announcing that his way would not pass through the winter resort of Camp David. His moves are Egyptian, Arab, and Muslim and so cannot agree to yield a single inch or adopt a callous stand toward a severe situation.

Perhaps his recent visit to Washington and his other visits to the European states have strengthened his complete conviction that the Western capitals have nothing more to offer an Arab, either in the East or in the West, than he can secure for himself. The Palestinian fighter, breaking out from his discontent and issuing forth from the womb of tragedy, did not wait for anyone to recognize him or label him a fedayeen.

We maintain that President Husni Mubarak, on his recent visits and trips, has discovered the difference between the West's respect for real power and its disregard of weakness. Egypt's present position under President Husni Mubarak's leadership, with all its burdens and problems, is considerably stronger than it used to be; the role it plays, strengthened by President Husni Mubarak's efforts, confirms the extent of the ground it has covered. It has achieved this not vainly but from a praiseworthy position that places on Egypt's list of priorities the preoccupations, the milieu, and the duty assigned to it by its Lord and authorized by its nation, its people, and its history.

So we welcome this renewed position from President Husni Mubarak, in which he has said in an unskeptical way, without humbug or dispute, that Camp David has come to an end and is truly finished, not in our fanciful ideas but in our minds, despite the painful wound it leaves behind in our flesh.

Further on Indictment of 'Revolution' Members

JN221526 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 23

[Excerpts] Cairo—In a statement published in the Cairo Nasirite paper SAWT AL-'ARAB yesterday, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir says he intends to return to Egypt to face charges in court.

The eldest son of the late Egyptian Arab President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, who was officially indicted last Thursday of being involved in attacks on Israelis and Americans in Egypt last year, made the statement in Yugoslavia where he is now staying. SAWT AL-'ARAB quotes him saying he has "full confidence in the Egyptian judiciary." [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-'ARAB also publishes what it says is the full text of the statements made during the interrogation of the defendents who took part in the attacks on Americans and Israelis. It can be concluded from the statements that prior to 1977 the principal defendant, Mahmud Nur al-Din, was intelligence officer at the Egyptian Embassy in London, whose task was to monitor Israeli activity in Britain.

It apears that Nur al-Din's brother informed a U.S. Embassy official in Cairo of the secret organization. Mahmud Nur al-Din said he wanted to assassinate the U.S. ambassador in Cairo. He said attacks on U.S. diplomats began after the Americans diverted the flight of the Egyptian plane that was carrying the Palestinian hijackers of the Italian ship "Achille Lauro" in October 1985.

In an editorial published on its third page SAWT AL-'ARAB suggests that the brother of the principal defendent was interrogated inside the U.S. Embassy. The paper notes that the announcement of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir's indictment was made on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to Egypt scheduled for 24—25 February. [passage omitted]

Former Minister Says 'Revolution' To Continue

NC221951 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Dr Hikmat Abu Zayd, a former Egyptian minister under Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and the first Egyptian woman ever to hold such a post, today addressed a message to the people in the West Bank, Gaza, and Golan. In her message, she hailed the steadfastness of these people in the face of the devious Zionist enemy and warned those involved in the uprising not to listen to suspicious appeals to stop the uprising and capitulate instead.

The former Egyptian minister said that the uprising coincides with the Egyptian people's total rejection of all forms of Israeli-U.S. hegemony. She called on all Arab leaders to live up to the deeds of Sulayman Khatir, Khalid Sukkar, and other strugglers.

Dr Abu Zayd stressed that the heroes of Egypt's Revolution will continue their struggle until the skies of Egypt are cleared of the disgrace of the Israeli flag and until Egypt is rid of all connections with the Zionists and the Americans.

Official Denies Arrest of 50 Students in Asyut

NC222206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2157 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—A responsible source in the Interior Ministry has denied reports by foreign news agencies today that 50 Asyut University students were arrested after staging a demonstration in support of the

Palestinian uprising. The source stressed that classes at Asyut University were orderly, that there were no demonstrations today, and that the reports are completely false and baseless.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi 'Objection' to Saharan State Noted

JN221454 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1335 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Feb (WAM)—The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD has said that a number of Arab Maghreb states are currently holding political discussions concerning a political solution to the Saharan problem, in view of the fact that this problem has been a major obstacle to the establishment of a unified Arab Maghreb.

AL-ITTIHAD cited Arab diplomatic sources as saying that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi proposed to Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the Polisario Front, that the front be dissolved militarily and turned into a legitimate political party in Morocco. Al-Qadhdhafi also pledged to Mohamed Abdelaziz to grant legitimacy to such a party in a political settlement of the situation with King Hassan II of Morocco. The same sources added that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi informed Mohamed Abdelaziz of this proposal in the presence of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid during their meeting in the Algerian city of Annaba earlier this month. Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated his objection to the establishment of an independent state in the Sahara, adding that he will not extend military assistance to the Polisario forces and will only give humanitarian aid.

Mauritania

Cultural Exchange Agreement Signed With USSR

AB210912 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Cheikh Suleiman, director of the National Languages Institute and deputy secretary general of the League of Mauritanian Poets, yesterday signed a protocol agreement with the delegate of the League of Soviet Writers. Under this agreement, cultural and artistic exchanges will be strengthened between Nouakchott and Moscow. The two men expressed satisfaction with the quality of the cultural cooperation between Mauritania and the Soviet Union.

Briefs

FRG Signs Agricutural Agreement

Cheikh Ould Ahmed Louly, minister of economy and finance, and FRG Ambassador Helmut van Edig yesterday signed an agreement establishing an agricultural credit mechanism for the Union of Development Banks. The project, which is financed by the FRG, involves a grant of DM2.4 million. The money will be disbursed as loans for irrigated agricultural projects in the (Drahata) region. [Excerpt] [*Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 21 Feb 88 AB*]

Morocco

Hassan, Officials Receive Angolan Minister

LD191314 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Marrakesh, Feb. 19 (MAP)—King Hassan II received Thursday afternoon in Marrakesh the visiting Angolan Minister of the Interior Alexandre Rodrigues Kito.

Rodrigues Kito was accompanied by Jean-Pierre M'toyo, adviser to Angolan President Dos Santos, and by Moroccan ambassador to Luanda 'Aziz Mekouar.

The audience was attended by Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri and Adviser to the king Ahmed Reda Guedira.

The Angolan officials had arrived in Morocco on Wednesday with a message from the Angolan president to King Hassan II.

Fishing Talks With EEC To Resume 'Next Week'

LD200936 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met today under the chairmanship of Premier Dr Azzedine Laraki. They examined the framework within which negotiations between Morocco and the EEC will be resumed in order to reach an agreement on fishing, in light of the recent contacts held in Rabat with the European envoy in charge of these negotiations. The Council of Ministers also examined the developments of negotiations being held with the European side on the commercial suitability of the cooperation agreement in light of the EEC expanding to include Spain and Portugal, and on the implementation of EEC financial aid to Morocco for the coming years.

Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, speaking at a press conference he held this evening, said that negotiations with the EEC on fishing will be resumed next week, based on respect for the principles of Morocco's sovereignty and its fundamental interests. [passage omitted]

Mauritania Signs Joint Administration Protocol

LD191321 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Rabat, Feb. 19 (MAP)—Morocco and Mauritania Thursday concluded an agreement protocol on cooperation in matters of public administration.

The agreement was signed in Rabat by Moroccan Minister Delegate in charge of Administrative Affairs Abderrahim Benabdeljalil and by visiting Mauritanian Minister of Public Offices, Employment and Youth and Sports [title as received] Dia El Hadj Abderrahmane.

The agreement protocol provides for joint action, mainly in training administrative cadres, consultations on issues pertaining to public administration and administrative reform, exchange of visits between professors and senior officials of both countries' administrations and the organizing of refreshing courses in the two countries' institutes of public administration.

A joint committee will be set up to elaborate a program for joint action by the two concerned ministries and to see to the application of the protocol's clauses. It will convene once a year, alternatively in Morocco and Mauritania. Dia El Haj Abderrahmane later told the media the exchange of expertise and training of Mauritanian cadres in Morocco fell within the context of elaborating an adminstrative reform project in Mauritania.

He said concertation between the two countries aimed at defining areas of cooperation so Mauritania could benefit from Morocco's experience in matters of administrative reform. [sentence as received]

He added that his talks with minister of employment and with officials of the national social welfare fund had been positive and led to concrete results concerning training of Mauritanian cadres in areas of employment and social welfare.

Later on Thursday, the Mauritanian minister conferred with Rafik Haddaoui [name as received], director of international cooperation at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The two sides examined various aspects of bilateral cooperation and means of further consolidating it, mainly in areas of public administration, employment, social welfare and youth and sports.

Sudan

Military Spokesman Notes Clashes With 'Outlaws'

JN221225 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA)—An Armed Forces official spokesman has said that at the beginning of this week army units escorting steamers carrying food suplies to the Upper Nile region clashed with remnants of outlaws in Shukkaba on the river between Kusti and Malakal.

One soldier was martyred and five others were wounded. Two of the friendly forces were killed while 82 outlaws were killed. The Armed Forces captured large and varied quantities of military equipment.

The official spokesman's statement also said that after the Shukkaba incident, the outlaws carried out a similar attack on steamers in Rum. The Armed Forces confronted the attackers, killing 32 of them and capturing more weapons.

The statement emphasized that the Armed Forces killed one of the Europeans fighting with the outlaws, but the outlaws immediately threw his body in the Nile before fleeing.

The Armed Forces official spokesman said the steamers are now proceeding to Malakal, capital of the Upper Nile region within the framework of the plan to transfer food supplies to that region which is suffering food shortages.

SPLA Reports Attacks on Government Troops

Denies Deaths in Steamer Attack

EA221629 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The official SPLM/SPLA spokesman has dismissed Khartoum's claim that 105 SPLA soldiers and 1 government soldier were killed in the steamer fight last weekend, as ridiculously absurd and contradicts [as heard] Khartoum's announcement that the steamers were carying only relief supplies to Malakal.

Is Khartoum telling the Sudanese people and the world that the alleged 105 SPLA dead were fired on by sacks of relief food, asked the spokesman? The spokesman went on to say that Khartoum's announcement that they killed SPLA soldiers in the fight of the steamers alone is sufficient proof that the steamers were carrying soldiers not food.

The spokesman also dismissed Khartoum's claim that they killed one European among the SPLA soldiers as a pure lie intended to convince its foreign backers to supply it with more troops and armaments. The spokesman reiterated that it is Khartoum which employs mercenaries to prosecute its unjust war against the Sudanese people.

'Successful' Raid on Malakal

EA221738 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The second and third companies of Abu-Shok Battalion commanded by Captain Matthew (Alwong Gach), under overall command of Commander Iam Akol Ajawin, carried out a successful commando raid into Malakal town in the night of 16 February 1988. Our correspondent in Malakal says that SPLA forces penetrated the town from Dengir Shufu and Hillah Sahah and reached Sawrah Jalabah in the center of Malakal.

A big number of enemy soldiers were killed and wounded. One enemy tent in the center of the town and 39 huts were burnt to the ground. One civilian by the name of

Apow Chan Deng was captured. He is a driver. He was working with the cooperatives department. The SPLA forces spent 3 hours in the town after which they pulled out. [passage omitted]

50 Militia Killed 8 Feb

EA221740 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA forces of the Twik Twik Battalion, under direct command of Captain (Peter Wek Kwanyin), the forces of Eagle Battalion, under the direct command of Captain (Luka Dut Yel), and Rejaf Forces, under the direct command of (Lino Garang Malit), and the overall command of Commander (Peter Wal Athiu), have raided government militia at Kir Khawr, Bahr al-Arab.

On 8 February, the same forces ambushed militia troops on their way to Dinka villages to raid cattle and take slaves. The correspondent says that 50 militiamen were killed and many others wounded. The remnants of the enemy militia fled toward northern Bahr al-Ghazal in search of good and revenge [passage omitted]

Raids Farajok Garrison 12 Feb

EA221748 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA forces from Tingili, Mukshashah, Tefeng, and Zalazl Battalions under the direct command of Captain (Matiyang Lamt) and the overall command of Alternate Commander Gilario Modi Horinyang, zonal commander of the eastern bank of Eastern Equatoria, again shelled and raided Farajok enemy garrison including the police barracks on 12 February 1988.

Our correspondent says that 16 enemy soldiers and two policemen were killed and many others were injured. Two buildings and several grass thatched huts in the enemy's garrison were gutted down and one land rover was completely destroyed. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali, Baccouche Meet USSR Special Envoy

LD191734 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met with Mr Mikhail Sytenko, special Soviet envoy to the head of state. The Soviet envoy pointed out during the meeting, which was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia, that he is honored to be the first contact between Mr Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The Soviet envoy said that on instruction from Mr Gorbachev he delivered an important message to the head of state concerning Afghanistan. He added that the meeting facilitated an exchange of ideas on this subject. Mr Sytenko said that we have noticed with contentment the good relations of friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and the Soviet Union. He expressed his hope that bilateral relations will develop, pointing out that the meeting enabled a discussion of issues of mutual interest.

Ben Ali, Jordan's Al-Masri Hold Talks 20 Feb

JN201522 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (PETRA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today. Al-Masri conveyed a verbal message to the Tunisian president from His Majesty King Husayn.

Attending the meeting were Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, and Jordanian Ambassador in Tunis Talal Sat'an al-Hasan.

Following the meeting, Al-Masri said His Majesty King Husayn's message deals with the situation in the region and current efforts in Arab and international arenas to achieve a comprehensive, just, and peaceful settlement of the Palestine question. The message also deals with some proposals to bolster the peace process and hold an international conference.

The minister added that His Majesty King Husayn's message is within the framework of Jordan's continuous efforts to consult with Arab brothers and put them in the picture of regional developments.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives for Meeting on 'Uprising'

JN200925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2125 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Tunis, 19 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Tunis tonight to attend the meeting of the Arab ministerial committee on following developments in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

At its first meeting on 20 February, the committee will discuss ways of supporting the Palestinian uprising on various Arab and international levels, and the measures to be followed in expounding the Palestinian cause internationally. [passage omitted]

Baccouche Meets With Sudanese Trade Minister

LD200948 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mr Hedi Baccouche has held talks with Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, Sudanese minister of commerce, cooperation and supply, who stated after the meeting that the prime minister praised the agreements reached by the two delegations, and called on

them both to work harder toward widening the trade and economic exchanges in light of the existing close relations between the two countries and peoples.

Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil pointed out that he conveyed to Hedi Baccouche the admiration of the Sudanese people, government, and parties for the peaceful and civilized method and style which distinguished the 7 November change, led by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Economic Agreement Signed

LD201523 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (TAP)—The minutes of the Tunisian-Sudanese joint committee meeting were signed this morning at a ceremony chaired by Tunisian Industry Minister Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, and the Sudanese minister of trade. The two ministers voiced satisfaction with the results attained by the two delegations, and expressed the hope that the signed agreement will help broaden economic cooperation. Slaheddine Ben Mbarek said that what had been achieved in the domain of economic cooperation would permit the doubling of bilateral trade exchanges in 1988 in comparison with the previous year.

The two sides agreed to organize exhibitions and sales fairs, and fixed the value of goods to be sold at the fairs by each country at $1 million. In the field of industrial cooperation, the minutes provide for a further study of industrial projects which could be set up jointly, including a project for production of phosphate fertilizers, and another for the industrialization of hides and their products.

Destourian Party Issues Statement on 'Uprising'

LD200959 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Socialist Destourian Party has issued a statement in Tunis. It states: With every concern and passion, the eyes of Destourians are focused on occupied Palestine, where the fire of injustice and oppression burns to suppress a massive uprising led by unarmed children who, with unique steadfastness and courage, confront the worst manifestations of assassination, torture and supression. The recent events in the village of Salim and in every inch of the occupied territories has exposed to world opinion Israel's assiduous violation of the most basic human rights. It also exposed the viciousness of its forces, who are armed with the most devastating means of supression and extermination, and the brutality of its soldiers, who do not hesitate to shoot at youngsters and bury them alive with a brutality unprecedented in history.

In view of the horror of these exterminatory practices, which are escalating daily, the Socialist Destourian Party fully supports the statement of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of 22 January 1988, which reiterated Tunisia's solidarity with the Palestinian people and its blessed uprising, and called upon the international community to take practical and effective measures to put an end to the spilling of Arab blood in the fighting in the land of Palestine.

The party bows in respect for and in remembrance of the innocent souls of the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution, and salutes from its very core the heroism of its unarmed pioneers in confronting the instruments of brutality and destruction. It cries out to the conscience of mankind throughout the universe to urgently and effectively move to stop the slaughter in the land of occupied Palestine, and to condemn the racist regime in Israel. It calls upon the United Nations to quickly implement its resolutions and to work toward the convening of an international peace conference that would safeguard the right of the people of Palestine to their land, home and state, and protect their children from homelessness and extermination.

The party calls upon all Tunisians, especially Destourians, to follow the situation with every vigilance, and to affirm their solidarity with their Palestinian brothers during these successive predicaments with effective moral and material support for the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Condemns Statements by Moroccan King

LD231120 Algiers APS in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Liberated Territories, 23 Feb (APS)—The president of the SDAR, Mohamed Abdelaziz, in a statement issued by the Saharan Information Ministry replied to statements made by the Moroccan Monarch during an interview with the Egyptian 'AL-MUSAWWAR' and 'AL-JUMHURIYAH' concerning the situation in the Greater Maghreb. He said that the Moroccan stand has always posed the only obstacle in the path of the embodiment of the Great Arab Maghreb—"its opposition over the period ranging from 1960 to 1969 to the independence of Mauritania, its aggression against Algeria in 1963, and its war against the SDAR since 1985."

Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz said that the deliberate ignoring of people who have full membership in the Maghreb community proves the Moroccan monarch's desire to continue carrying out a regional policy based on an expansionist ideology.

The king of Morocco stated with regard to the problem of Western Sahara that he accepts the organization of a referendum, but refuses negotiations with the Polisario front and refuses to withdraw from the Saharan territories, relying on the "Algerian example" to support his views.

These statements require the following clarifications:

1. Morocco's position remains the only obstacle facing the peaceful settlement proposed by the OAU and the United Nations in resolutions 104 and 70/42. It rejects both negotiations and withdrawal from the territories it occupies in order to allow the United Nations and the OAU to undertake the preparation and organization of the referendum on self-determination for the Saharan people in conditions allowing the latter to express their choice in full freedom.

We are entitled to wonder in this respect why the king of Morocco is preventing a neutral international organization and its peace-keeping forces from taking charge of the organization of a referendum in the Saharan territories while the SDAR, which is a member of the United Nations and which is recognised by 70 of the world countries, accepts this.

Who is Morocco afraid of? Is it the United Nations, or of the decision of the people, or of both?

2. The king of Morocco, who quoted the "Algerian example," forgets that the referendum in Algeria was preceded by direct negotiations between France and the temporary government of the Algerian Republic. The Evian Agreement affixed beforehand the future relations between independent Algeria and France.

The president of the Saharan state went on to say that if Hassan II is attached to this example and compares the Moroccan presence in Western Sahara with the French presence in Algeria, then the Polisario Front and the Saharan Government call on the king of Morocco and on his government to come to the negotiating table in order to determine, as in the Evian agreement, not only the modalities of the referendum but the future relations between the SDAR and Morocco.

Kuwait

Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit
LD222129 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1559 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 Feb (KUNA)—Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdellatif Filali arrived in Kuwait this evening from Riyadh on a 1-day visit. [passage omitted]

After his arrival, Dr Filali told journalists that during his visit he will convey a message to his highness the amir of Kuwait from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco pertaining to the Arab and Islamic situation and the situation in the region in particular. [passage omitted]

Regarding King Hassan II's call for an emergency Arab summit, Dr Filali said that the call arises from Morocco's opinion that the circumstances now, especially after the outbreak of the popular uprising in occupied Arab territories, are suitable for the convening of an Arab meeting at summit level to study U.S. and European moves with regard to the uprising. He said that duty requires the Arab world to unite its word and to unite it again on the Palestinian issue.

In reply to a question, he said the question of Morocco hosting the emergency Arab summit, if it is convened, has not yet been discussed. He said there is nothing new about the activities and resolutions of the Jerusalem Committee which is led by the Moroccan king.

Received by Foreign Minister
LD231147 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1057 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, met this morning at the ministry headquarters with Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, who left later this afternoon for Abu Dhabi on a tour of a number of GCC states. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister Meets With Algerian Foreign Minister
JN221742 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] An official Omani-Algerian round of talks was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning. Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, state minister for foreign affairs, led the Omani side and Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algeria's foreign minister, led his country's delegation. In addition to bilateral ties, the talks covered regional developments.

Saudi Arabia

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Polyakov Departs
LD222235 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov, deputy foreign minister in charge of Middle East affairs, left Riyadh this evening. He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry in charge of political affairs, and by Ambassador Tawfiq 'Alamdar, head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan's Zain Noorani Arrives in Riyadh
LD230919 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0813 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Feb (SPA)—Zain Noorani, the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Riyadh this morning on a 1-day visit to the Kingdom. [passage omittedt]

Talks With Foreign Minister
LD231142 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1104 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met at his highness's office today with his excellency the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani. The two sides studied bilateral relations and issues of common concern. [passage omitted]

'Source' Gives Figures on Palestinian Aid
LD222148 Riyadh SPA Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Feb, SPA—To clarify statements quoting Yasir 'Arafat which KUL AL-'ARAB published in its latest edition, statements which were carried by KUNA yesterday evening, to the effect that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in an interview with that magazine criticized the Arab states, except Kuwait and Iraq, and accused them of not sending a single penny to support the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation, to clarify these and other statements attributed to him in the interview, an official source told SPA the following:

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not in the habit of publicizing everything it gives to the children of the militant Palestinian people inside the occupied land in the context of its support and backing to the cause of this fraternal people. It believes that this duty, which is determined by the bonds of Islamic, Arab, and pan-Arab brotherhood vis-a-vis the fairness of the cause and also vis-a-vis the steadfastness of the Palestinian militants to recover their usurped land, establish their homeland on it, and have the right to self-determination, should not be looked upon as a favor because it stems from a profound and firm belief in their legitimate rights."

The source added: "However, to illustrate the truth to both Palestinian and Arab public opinion and since Yasir 'Arafat's interview was published by the aforementioned magazine and carried by news agencies, whether the interview was distorted or accurate, duty requires us to clarify the following points:

"To support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the Kingdom has given since 1979 an amount estimated so far at $386 million, which represents $43 million per annum, through the joint committee set up to channel this support to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and through the PLO.

"In addition to that, the Kingdom has in the past given direct financial aid to the Palestinians in the occupied territories to support universities, hospitals, municipalities, institutes, and schools and the total amount is estimated at $20 million."

The source went on to say: This was at the state level. As for the popular level, Saudi citizens' donations to their Palestinian brothers struggling in the occupied territories are still standing and continuing and perhaps the latest were those announced by the popular committees in Riyadh for aiding strugglers of Palestine, the new payments of which reached 6,214,895 Saudi riyals as of yesterday, Sunday. This was in response to the call made by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh Region and chairman of the popular committees for aiding the strugglers of Palestine in the occupied territories.

At the end of his statement, the source said: This is a quick glimpse which we mention in the course of explaining the truth. We would not have done this if it were not for what was mentioned earlier regarding Yasir 'Arafat's statement published by the magazine.

We are not about to give details now on the Kingdom's positive and historic stands vis-a-vis the PLO and the continued support offered to it by the Kingdom, the latest example of which is the presentation by the Kingdom to the PLO representative in the Kingdom of the sum of $14,285,703 to support the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territories.

Appreciating the contributions made by the sisterly countries—Iraq, $3,000,000 and Kuwait, $5,000,000—to the families of martyrs, the Kingdom reaffirms that its support for the PLO and the brotherly Palestinian people in their legitimate struggle will continue until God grants them victory.

Philippine House Speaker Mitra Begins Talks

HK220528 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] [Philippine] House Speaker Ramon Mitra opened talks yesterday in Saudi Arabia with the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Mitra arrived earlier in the day. He said the purpose of his visit was to block moves by the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] to be in full membership in the 46-nation Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

The Moro National Liberation Front leads a 16-year old bid for autonomy in Mindanao. The state-run radio said Prince Sa'ud and Mitra discussed issues of mutual interest and economic and political topics, but did not elaborate.

The Organization of Islamic Conference meets in Jordan next month and the promotion of the Moro National Liberation Front from observer to full member in the pan-Islamic organization will be tantamount to official recognition of the leading Muslim separatist group in the Philippines.

The OIC had helped arrange talks for peaceful settlement between the two sides. But the talks broke down since May over the scope of autonomy that the Philippine Government was willing to grant to the country's 5 million Muslims.

United Arab Emirates

Jordan's Al-Masri Arrives in Sanaa 22 Feb

JN221306 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Sanaa heading an official delegation to the meeting today of the Jordanian-Yemeni higher committee. In an arrival statement, Mr al-Masri said he will deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to the North Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. He added that the message deals with the situation in the region and the current Arab and international moves to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem through the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

On the meetings of the Jordanian-Yemeni higher committee, Mr al-Masri said both Amman and Sanaa are looking forward to strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Committee Meetings Begin

JN221332 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The meetings opened in Sanaa today of the joint Jordanian-YAR higher committee, chaired by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; and Tahir al- Masri, Jordanian foreign minister. Dr al-Iryani said the meetings are a product of King Husayn's visit to the YAR and a confirmation of the depth of bilateral ties.

For his part, the Jordanian foreign minister expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded him and his delegation in Sanaa. Referring to the uprising in the occupied land, Al-Masri declared that the world today pays attention only to the strong.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian and YAR sides reviewed recommendations of the joint committee's preparatory committee. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Returns to Baghdad From PRC 23 Feb

JN230933 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today following an official 2-day visit to the PRC. During the visit, the foreign minister held talks with senior PRC officials on bilateral relations, developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

'Izzat Ibrahim Leaves for Cairo 23 Feb

JN231114 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left for Cairo today leading a delegation on an official visit to Egypt. The visit will last several days.

The delegation accompanying 'Izzat Ibrahim comprises RCC member Hasan 'Ali, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil, and Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister on Surveys, Iranian Policy

JN221624 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1311 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA)—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim has asserted that Iraq has become the second largest country in the world in terms of currently confirmed reserves.

In a statement to Baghdad radio today, the minister said seismologic surveys have covered large areas of Iraq extending approximately 200,000 km. The minister explained that most survey operations were carried out by Iraqi technical cadres who were trained following the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Regarding the Iranian regime's stand and its role in disturbing the oil market, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim asserted that the Iranian regime seeks to undermine any unified efforts aimed at stabilizing the world oil market. He explained that the oil policy of the Khomeyni regime is based on disturbing the oil market by offering large price discounts and lack of commitment to the production quota defined by OPEC.

Communique No 3,030 Details 21-22 Feb Combat

JN221731 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,030 Issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the resolve and high morale of the courageous Iraqi men, our victorious forces continue their heroic struggle, inflicting new losses on our country's enemies at all times. Following are the results of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt violent blows with various types of weapons to the scoundrels' concentrations, positions, and vehicles. Our units managed to achieve the following:

Killing 59 enemy personnel and wounding large numbers of enemy troops; setting ablaze and destroying 8 assorted vehicles; destroying 1 107-mm rocket launcher; blowing up 4 ammunition dumps; and destroying 1 infantry position and 1 observation post.

2. One ammunition dump was blown up and six infantry positions were destroyed, killing their occupants, in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Our courageous units in the II Army Corps central sector killed 13 enemy troops; destroyed 8 infantry positions, 1 machinegun emplacement, and 2 observation posts; damaged 1 tank; and blew up 1 ammunition dump.

4. Three infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, two vehicles carrying personnel, three infantry positions, an observation post, and one gun emplacement were destroyed. Yesterday, six enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port. The port's brave force pounded the boats with all its weapons and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

6. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the Bimalik complex in the Qal'at Dizah District with long-range artillery last night. The shelling wounded one civilian and damaged a number of houses. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 February 1988

Peres Office Says Pipeline Bribe 'Nonsense'

TA230600 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] A secret memorandum made public in Washington last night said Israel was offered $700 million 3 years ago, of which 10 percent was to go to the Labor Party, so that it would agree to the laying of the oil pipeline from Iraq to the Jordanian port of Al-'Aqabah. Minister Peres was prime minister at the time, and has in the past firmly denied such reports.

The memorandum was made public by Attorney General Edwin Meese's attorneys, after its security classification was dropped.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the disclosure is the top item in the U.S. media. The memorandum was written by Meese's friend and partner Robert Wallach, who represented businessman Bruce Rappaport. Its disclosure follows investigations into the legality of Meese's conduct in the oil pipeline affair. According to U.S. law, payments to foreign parties are considered a crime.

In reaction, the foreign minister's office told our correspondent that the claims are nonsense and ridiculous, and that they have already been denied in the past by Mr Peres and Mr Rappaport. No bribes were ever offered, and the approval for the Iraqi oil pipeline was given following consultations by Peres, Shamir, Rabin, and Ya'aqobi, the statement said.

Peres Reiterates Bribe Denial

TA231140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Arye Gus on 23 February during a visit to Nabulus—recorded]

[Text] [Gus] Mr Peres, last night new documents on the Meese affair were made public. Can you comment on them?

[Peres] No new documents related to me were released and I have nothing to react to. Nobody says he gave or proposed giving the Labor Party anything. There are people who say they planned to do it, but this is worthless rubbish.

[Gus] Do you deny it outright?

[Peres] Yes. We all agreed to the laying of the pipeline, so why would anybody have to resort to bribery?

[Gus] Then why do you think the issue has been raised again?

[Peres] Why should I deal with it? Why should I speculate?

More on Shultz Visit, U.S. Peace Initiative

Shamir Accepts Conference

TA221720 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this evening that the timetable of the political moves included in Shultz' initiative is too tight. One cannot expect one initiative to solve the conflict, said Shamir in a meeting with Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden. He added that he would not object to an international conference if one were convened at the end of the negotiations in order to endorse the agreements reached earlier.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the Australian minister relayed a message from Prime Minister Bob Hawke to Shamir expressing concern over the situation in the territories.

Shamir Against Withdrawal

TA221849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel will welcome the American initiative if it is faithful to the Camp David Accords, but will not give up territory even under pressure. The prime minister was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] Israel will not adopt a decision to withdraw, the prime minister told the committee, even under pressure. Where in the world is there a state that would give up its land so easily? Other countries would laugh at the very idea and we would be despised if we did so. The Arab countries refuse to concede even 1 inch, Shamir said, even a grain of sand, and we have been hearing emphatic refusals of the U.S. initiatives from the Arab camp. Of course, Syria would be pleased to take back the Golan Heights without budging from its present political position, and she is delighted that Secretary Shultz is prepared to visit Damascus without any concession on her part.

Shamir does not think his own attitude would damage Israel's relations with the United States. It was after we rejected the Reagan initiative in 1982 that our friendship with the United States reached an unprecedented peak, he said. And he accused Foreign Minister Peres of weakening Israel's position by agreeing to everything before the content of the U.S. initiative was even known.

The prime minister also accused certain Israelis of trying to undermine the morale of the army, which he said was doing a good job of coping with the disturbances in the territories.

Turning to his recent visit to Italy, Shamir said he had not asked to meet the pope because the Vatican still refuses to recognize the state of Israel or establish diplomatic relations with it. And the pope recently received such guests as Kurt Waldheim and leaders of the PLO. [end recording]

Shamir on Jordan, PLO Stands

TA222024 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dan Scemama on 22 February, after his meeting with the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I stand by the Camp David Accords. I do not know to what extent the principles proposed by the secretary of state are different from those of Camp David. We will hear, we will see and analyze.

[Scemama] You are probably aware, Mr Prime Minister, that the Egyptians have said the autonomy plan is dead.

[Shamir] They have been saying this for a long time and if they go on saying it, then of course there will be no one to talk to. Jordan has also been saying this, but there are some who claim the Jordanians are saying it only in public, while in private they say altogether different things. Let us hope this is true.

[Scemama] And if they do mean what they are saying in public, then is there no solution to the Middle East crisis?

[Shamir] Who says there is no solution? What I mean, for the time being, is that the Camp David solution is the most realistic, and the best from our point of view. I believe it is also good for the Arabs.

[Scemama] Mr Prime Minister, the PLO has called on the leaders of the territories to abstain from meeting with George Shultz during his visit to Israel. Is this PLO appeal significant in any way?

[Shamir] Of course, they do not wish to negotiate with the United States because the United States does not wish to negotiate with them. The United States does not recognize the PLO, it views the PLO as a negative element. Hence the PLO demand that the local Arabs do not cooperate with the secretary of state. In fact, they express opposition to any step that can draw peace nearer, but it does not surprise us, because it is perfectly obvious to us that the PLO is not interested in peace, and that the PLO and peace are opposing concepts.

[Scemama] Mr Prime Minister, the defense minister said yesterday, after 2 months of riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, that it is impossible to rule over 1.5 million Arabs, and that this is a civil war. What is your reaction to these remarks?

[Shamir] Look, I am not obligated to react to every pronouncement of the defense minister. I agree with him over many issues. What is important to me is that the people of Israel should rule over Eretz Yisra'el.

Shamir Adopts Policy Change

TA231208 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir and press agencies]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided on a tactical change in his policy. He is ready to support the convening of an international conference, but only as a formality ending negotiations in which Israel and the Arab countries would agree on the permanent arrangements. Shamir will present this concept in his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who will arrive in Israel on Thursday.

A source in the prime minister's office says: "Shamir's line will be a conditional 'yes,' and not a total rejection of the U.S. initiative. Shamir will in principle agree about the need for a political initiative, but will object to key clauses in Shultz' plan, including those referring to an opening international conference, accelerated negotiations on the interim and permanent arrangements, holding elections in the territories already this year, and withdrawing the IDF from population centers.

"In the talks, Shamir will present an alternative to Shultz' initiative. The key points of this initiative: dealing with the problem of the refugees at once, renewing the autonomy negotiations, and beginning negotiations on the permanent arrangements after 5 years of self-rule in the territories."

In a meeting with Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden, Shamir said: "I hope Shultz' visit will lead to progress on the political process. The results depend on our neighboring countries." He voiced concern about Jordan's position: "The voices coming from Amman are not encouraging." Shamir made it clear that he will object to any concessions whatsoever regarding the Golan Heights, and noted that chances for political negotiations are slim, in view of the Syrian president's position. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Attitude 'Positive'

TA222130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Egypt is worried that a hardened Israeli stand may influence U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz into stressing and underlining autonomy as an interim settlement. These remarks were made tonight by Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni in a conversation with Foreign Minister Peres. Ambassador Basyuni told Minister Peres that Egypt's attitude toward Shultz's initiative for a political process in the Middle East is most positive.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that the ambassador briefed the foreign minister on the coordination between Cairo and Amman regarding various political process steps.

Our correspondent further reports that the foreign minister's office reacted to the prime minister's remarks regarding the possibility of early elections saying that first of all the peace process should be initiated. Only if that fails, will the nation be obliged to decide whom to support.

Ben-Aharon on Preparations

TA231616 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, by Ilana Dayan—live]

[Text] [Dayan] Good evening, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good evening.

[Dayan] It seems everything is prepared for Shultz, except for a unified, consistent Israeli position.

[Ben-Aharon] I would not say that there is no unified Israeli position. I would like to hope that there exists a national consensus over everything related to Israel's basic positions, as stipulated in the government's basic guidelines. This, after all, would cover the entire first stage of negotiations if and when they take place, and tide us over through the stage during which the permanent status of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be discussed.

[Dayan] Yet these basic guidelines did not stop us from setting up five working teams—two in the prime minister's office, and three in the foreign minister's office—to prepare for that visit. Could you spell out the differences between the various teams?

[Ben-Aharon] It is advantageous and beneficial to have a variety of opinions. The diversity of the groups improves results. I hope it will all be for the best. The better we prepare for the visit, the more substantive and effective will be the deliberations. I see nothing wrong in that.

[Dayan] We will shortly discuss the content of the working papers the prime minister's office will submit, but do you know anything about the Foreign Ministry's proposed plans? Is it suggesting any new plans or ideas?

[Ben-Aharon] I know nothing beyond what has been stated by the person who heads the Foreign Ministry and its director general. We are not a party to these papers. We do our job in accordance with the prime minister's instructions, while the Foreign Ministry follows its own.

[Dayan] Does that mean that there is no cooperation of any sort between you? You do not talk on the phone, never exchange views, never meet over a cup of coffee?

[Ben-Aharon] There is no cooperation of any sort.

[Dayan] Mr Ben-Aharon, the way things stand now, do you envision any possibility that Shamir and Peres will hold a joint meeting with Secretary Shultz, or will he—like his aide Murphy—be obligated to shuttle back and forth between the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's office?

[Ben-Aharon] That will be up to the two personalities you mentioned to decide. The Inner Cabinet session tomorrow will be devoted to the matter, and it may very well be that either before or after that session the two will meet.

[Dayan] When you told those Americans with whom you have been in contact in anticipation of, and in preparation for, this visit that apparently there will be no joint session, were they surprised? Did they find this funny, or are they used to this?

[Ben-Aharon] Unfortunately, they have grown accustomed to this, and as you know, Murphy and the visitors who came here before him all did this. This has been going on now for some time.

[Dayan] Mr Ben-Aharon, although his visit is planned to last through Sunday, Mr Shultz himself said last week that actually his Middle East tour will have an open schedule. Has Jerusalem received a message to this effect?

[Ben-Aharon] This is somewhat incorrect. The original date for the end of Shultz's visit is not Sunday, but Tuesday, as he is expected in Brussels that day. Beyond that, nothing has been fixed. I believe he will make up his mind according to the circumstances and in light of the results of his talks here and in the Arab capitals.

[Dayan] In other words, we are prepared for the possibility that this visit, these shuttles, may be an extended affair.

[Ben-Aharon] Certainly. If there are any signs indicating that the Arab side is showing readiness to engage in dialogue and launch negotiations over what we regard as the substance toward making progress in the direction of finding a settlement—first over the autonomy and then, at a later stage, over the permanent settlement—then I presume Shultz will stay here. We may even embark on direct negotiations soon. I hope so.

[Dayan] In that case, let us go back to the content for a minute. We mentioned the working teams at the outset of this interview. One of them is a think tank headed by

Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein who, I understand, will present the U.S. secretary of state with a plan to rehabilitate the refugee camps. What is that actually all about?

[Ben-Aharon] We have reached the conclusion that the situation that has been created in the territories is, among other things, a direct result of the dire state in which the Arab refugees, residing mainly in the Gaza District, find themselves. The prime minister toured that region not long ago. He talked to some Arabs who told him—and I think this was somewhat surprising—that they have no faith and entertain very little hope in foreign elements, including the PLO leadership; that they feel forsaken and abandoned by the Arab countries which have been using them as a pawn to serve their own ends; and that they are particularly distressed by the [conclusion of interview unmonitorable due to break in transmission resulting from bad weather]

Shamir Views Camp David

TA221232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the U.S. Middle East initiative was a result of the unrest in the territories, and there was no early planning. He said the United States decided not to leave a vacuum which the Soviet Union could fill. The prime minister addressed the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and later answered reporters' questions. Hayim Zissowitz reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Zissowitz] The prime minister reiterated his commitment to the Camp David Accords as the only way to solve the conflict in our region. The U.S. plan also contains ideas based on this agreement, but they have been deliberately obscured in order to avoid Arab opposition. Mr Shamir was asked for his reaction to Egypt's announcement that the Camp David autonomy plan is dead.

[Shamir] If they continue to say that, there will be nobody to negotiate with. Jordan says the same thing. But there are those who say that the Egyptians say this only in public, while in private they speak differently.

[Zissowitz] Mr Shamir prefers not to react to remarks by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who defined the unrest in the territories as a civil war.

[Shamir] This is not exactly a precise definition, but definitions are unimportant.

[Zissowitz] On the eve of Secretary of State George Shultz' arrival in the region, Mr Shamir was asked if he would be meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in order to consolidate a common Israeli position.

[Shamir] Within the next few days we will have a political debate in the Inner Cabinet. Such a meeting depends on how events develop, and what conclusions we will reach. We will then see whether we can hold joint talks with Mr Shultz.

[Zissowitz] Mr Shamir does not fear U.S. pressure and is also not concerned about future relations with our great friend, because the leaders of that country have always said that relations are excellent and will not be harmed.

[Shamir] Therefore, I do not believe that if we fail to reach an identity of views, our relations will deteriorate.

[Zissowitz] Finally, on the question of Soviet involvement in the peace process, which is being aired once again, Mr Shamir urged skepticism about all headlines appearing in the press.

[Shamir] The Soviet Union has the necessary channels to make its position absolutely clear. If some day the Soviet Union decides, for example, to renew diplomatic relations with Israel, I will welcome it.

[Zissowitz] These remarks were made by the prime minister after the Knesset committee meeting. In the meeting itself, serious differences of opinion in the coalition were brought to the fore, with Likud members again demanding early elections and the dismissal of Foreign Minister Peres. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 22 February reports that in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee debate on the situation in the territories, "the prime minister said circumstances could develop in which the Alignment and the Likud would decide on early elections."]

Sharon Examines Shultz Mission

TA230954 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Shilon and Ilana Dayan—live]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] Good morning to you. One gets the impression that the Likud strategy is to react positively to the Shultz mission and with moderation to the contents of the plan which remain totally unacceptable to the Likud. On the assumption that there is a wide and unbridgeable gap between the Likud's policy of not giving up one inch of territory and Shultz' policy of peace in exchange for territory, a logical person must reach the inevitable conclusion that the Shultz mission is doomed before it has begun. Is this analysis correct?

[Sharon] No, I believe the analysis is incorrect. The Likud position has always been to aspire to peace. The fact is that all Israeli prime ministers up to the present have aspired to peace, but only Menahem Begin signed a peace agreement. Therefore, I have no doubt that the

Likud aspires to peace and is making all efforts to achieve peace. But with us, and I understand this is the same with many others in Israel, peace is not an empty statement or slogan. When we talk of peace we must consider what will happen in Israel not only in the coming elections, not only in the coming year, but what it will be like living here in 20 years, and how Jews will live here in 50 years time. Therefore, when we prepare for peace talks we must study the issue carefully. [passage omitted]

There are two approaches: the direct approach, as presented by Prime Minister Shamir, which says specifically what we intend to achieve, and I believe it is a lot: an interim arrangement which is the Camp David autonomy plan; the other approach is worded in vague terms, promises things whose true meaning we do not really know, and, by virtue of its publicly-made concessions, encourages Arab rioters in all of Eretz Yisra'el. This has created a situation whereby Moscow, Baghdad, and PLO leader 'Arafat all support a certain minister's international conference, which we cannot accept. This is a dangerous plan which will restore the Soviet Union's central role in the region.

[Shilon] This minister—and we can easily guess that the reference is to Shim'on Peres—is closer to U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' position. Does this mean Shultz will not succeed with his initiative, as he has defined it?

[Sharon] I believe Shultz is facing a very delicate task. He has a chance to succeed, on condition that he base his plan on the Camp David autonomy plan, to which the United States itself is a signatory. What is the worth of agreements if an accord signed only 10 years ago is null and void? If Mr Shultz proceeds with caution on this issue, he will understand that a solution cannot be imposed from outside. We have already seen—and I say this despite Secretary Shultz' obvious friendship toward Israel—that in the past, U.S. interference and attempts to impose solutions in other places through pressure failed, and in fact only brought even worse disasters.

[Dayan] On the eve of Mr Shultz' visit, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that it may be possible for the Likud and the Alignment to reach an agreement on early elections. Shamir spoke about elections in August, but Peres said that if they were to be brought forward, elections should be in May. Do you agree to elections being brought forward?

[Sharon] I believe the elections should not be brought forward at this time. If the Labor Party believes it should leave the Cabinet, then it should get up and go. There is no reason to put the country through an election campaign. Our present task is to impose law and order. This is what must be done now.

[Dayan] Nevertheless, if an agreement is reached between the large parties—and at least theoretically this could happen—who would be the Likud's candidate for prime minister?

[Sharon] The Likud candidate for prime minister will be elected by the Likud Central Committee, as has always been the case. The Likud is the only totally democratic party, and I would call on all other parties and those who are considering running in the next elections to learn democracy from the Likud.

[Shilon] Will you make use of Likud democracy and present yourself as a candidate as well?

[Sharon] I think that if Mr Shamir wants to continue as prime minister, he will receive the support of the Likud Central Committee.

Labor Supports Land for Peace

TA191154 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said his party, the Labor Party, has no problem—as he phrased it—with the notion behind the Reagan plan of peace in exchange for territory, which is the basis of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' new initiative.

In a meeting with members of the Canadian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, Mr Peres said that only such a permanent solution will preclude the annexation of 1.5 million Arabs to Israel. Mr Peres attaches importance to the fact that Shultz' initiative proposes what he described as an international event which would enable King Husayn to participate. The initiative later goes on to propose an interim settlement with the characteristics of a provisional settlement, which is the only agreement that enables the Arabs to take part in the process, knowing that a permanent settlement will follow.

Herut, Tehiya To Demonstrate

TA230909 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 88 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Text] Herut and Tehiya activists and settlers from the West Bank and Gaza plan to demonstrate outside the prime minister's office this Friday morning in protest against territorial concessions, while Shamir and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz meet inside.

The demonstrators will carry posters calling for peace in exchange for peace and claiming that "Eretz Yisra'el" is not for sale. Both sides of the dispute need peace, say the organizers. If only one side "pays," the result is not peace.

Shamir has agreed to the demonstration, which will express support of his policy, it was reported.

Demonstration organizers said yesterday they also expect participants from HABAD [Hasidic movement] and the National Religious Party [NRP].

But NRP sources said that the party will not join the demonstration officially, although each member is free to do as he or she wishes.

"We don't know what the Shultz programme is yet, so how can we demonstrate against it?" said an NRP source. "We do not automatically say 'no' to everything, we listen first. I'm sure there'll be many kipot [skullcaps] at the demonstration, but they will not have been sent by the party."

Sinyurah on Meeting Abroad

TA230934 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Fresh efforts appear to be under way to arrange a meeting between Palestinians and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his forthcoming Middle East shuttle, possibly in a neighbouring Arab capital. The PLO has vetoed such a meeting in Jerusalem.

U.S. special envoy Wat Cluverius, who met with a group of Palestinians in Jerusalem over the weekend, left Israel on Sunday on a mission apparently connected with the planned meeting, though it was unclear whether the Americans were prepared for such talks outside the territories.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah, who returned yesterday from Europe, said that a meeting abroad between Shultz and Palestinians from inside and outside the territories was "under consideration." A proposal to this effect had been conveyed to the Americans, he added. Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an told THE JERUSALEM POST on Sunday that the PLO had proposed talks with Shultz in Cairo, Amman or Damascus.

Sinyurah said that though there would be no meeting with Shultz in Jerusalem, the Palestinians were not boycotting him. "A Palestinian delegation comprising people from the territories and outside can meet him in Cairo, Europe or Washington," he said. The inclusion of Palestinians from abroad was meant "to symbolize that we are one people, and that the matter does not only concern the fate of the Palestinians here.

"If Mr. Shultz is serious about finding a solution, he has to talk to the Palestinians through such a delegation," he added. Sinyurah said a delegation acceptable to the Americans could include members of the Palestine National Council, such as those considered in August 1985 for a meeting in Amman with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy.

Palestinian supporters of Jordan and backers of the PLO have said they will not meet with Shultz in Jerusalem, following the organization's rejection of such a meeting. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that he supports such a meeting, but will not put himself at risk by being the only one to attend. Deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa has expressed similar sentiments.

In West Bank incidents yesterday, a Palestinian tried to stab a Golani Brigade soldier on patrol at Manara Square in Ramallah, but was wrestled to the ground and subdued by the soldier and his colleagues. The assailant was cut by his own knife in the scuffle and treated by the soldier he attacked, who is a medic.

"Out of the corner of my eye I saw someone approaching me and I instinctively grabbed him," the soldier said. "My partner and I jumped on him and pushed him onto the ground with the face down. He was wounded in the hand, but not seriously."

A petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli car near Qatannah in the Ramallah area, but there were no casualties.

Palestinian sources reported the following incidents:

Troops and stone-throwing protesters clashed in parts of Ramallah and in neighbouring Al-Birah, where a protester was shot and wounded in the leg.

In Nabulus, some 300 mourners carrying a Palestinian flag staged a symbolic funeral for Ahmad Abu Salhiya, a 60-year-old man who died Sunday after being overcome by tear gas. Protesters clashed with troops in the old city, and the municipality and chamber of commerce were closed in mourning over the two local residents who died Sunday.

North of Nabulus, protests were reported in Tubas, Qabatiyah, Ya'bad and Silat al-Harithiyah, where troops shot and wounded two protestors. In 'Anabta, a riot broke out after troops dispersed a demonstration by women who marched in response to a call by the PLO for pilgrimages to graves of Palestinians killed in the two months of protests in the territories.

At Khirbat al-Tarramah near Bethlehem, demonstrators threw rocks at an Israeli settler's car, smashing its windshield, in a protest sparked by arrests in the village on Sunday.

Fayiz Abu Rahmah Wants Meeting

TA191143 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Excerpts] There has been no confirmation yet of the report in a Nazareth newspaper that Yasir 'Arafat has drawn up a list of seven Palestinians authorized by the PLO to meet Secretary Shultz when he visits Israel next week. The paper AL-SINARA says 'Arafat intends to make sure that no other Palestinians will meet Shultz during his visit. [passage omitted]

Reporter Shlomo Berger telephoned Fayiz Abu Rahmah in Gaza this morning, and asked him whether he could confirm the newspaper report.

[Begin recording] [Abu Rahmah] Well, I can't confirm this. I heard it. I have no other source to confirm or deny. I believe that the only department which can do that is 'Arafat's office.

[Berger] Do you plan to meet with Secretary Shultz when he is here, in Israel, next week?

[Abu Rahmah] Yes, I do plan that, if we have the consensus among the parties, because we do not want to have any disunity in any field.

[Berger] And if you do meet with Mr Shultz, what do you plan to tell him?

[Abu Rahmah] I am asking him to have America's approval to convene the international conference and to help the parties in reaching a settlement through this conference. [end recording]

Visit Termed 'Waste of Time'

TA191539 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 19 Feb 88 p 8

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] A waste of time—this is how Palestinian figures have described Shultz' political initiative. "He would be better off vacationing somewhere in the Caribbean rather than coming to Jerusalem for deliberations that actually amount to nothing but an attempt to grind water," says Jack Khazmu, the editor of the East Jerusalem political weekly AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj used a similar metaphor in this context, saying that the U.S. initiative is like a bathhouse without water.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising, which has spearheaded the riots in the territories, has urged the immediate rejection of the latest initiative. This received particular emphasis in pamphlet No 7, which was distributed this week. "Imperialism," the pamphlet read, "has come to Israel's rescue through U.S. schemes plotted in conjunction with Egypt and Jordan. Our rebelling nation will foil such schemes, whose aim is the establishment of autonomy or a civilian administration in accordance with the U.S. or Israeli interpretation, or a joint administration (Jordanian-Israeli, R.S.) by way of masking it as a festive international event...."

Journalist Ziyad Abu Zayyad from East Jerusalem said: "After 2 and 1/2 months of uprising, in view of the dear price we have paid, and seeing that the national stand has experienced a shift and has consolidated over time, autonomy clearly is a relic of the past. My people want to make good on their right to self-determination, and only one magic word will open the gates of peace: recognition. Yet neither the United States nor Israel has said this word."

The attitude in the territories toward the United States is usually cool and suspicious, and has recently become almost hostile. Last week the Palestinians dwelled extensively on the administration's decision to close the PLO offices in New York. The pro-PLO weekly AL-'AWDAH issued a threat in writing that "The decision is tantamount to a U.S. declaration of war against the Palestinians." Jack Khazmu added: "Any ties with the United States will be regarded by the Arab man in the street as an act of treason." Says Dr Sari Nusaybah: "The U.S. proposals are still a far cry from Palestinian demands and expectations. It is time for the United States to cease beating around the bush and to speak openly about two states: Israel and Palestine. As long as the U.S. stand remains unchanged, there is no point in arranging meetings between Palestinian figures and Shultz."

Right now, it is the Americans who are seeking such a meeting. Shultz, Palestinian sources maintain, has asked Sinyurah to arrange a meeting in Jerusalem but "the Palestinian diplomats" have declined. Says Ziyad Abu Zayyad: "As long as Shultz continues to term the PLO a terrorist organization and says that it has no place in the peace process, this signifies that he cannot comprehend the facts underlying the conflict. It is therefore pointless to meet with him."

Jack Khazmu went a bit further: "Those who do meet with Shultz will be representing themselves only."

Oddly enough, it is none other than Sinyurah, who is well versed in the moods in the Arab street, who believes that it is necessary to meet with Shultz. "We must persuade the Americans to recognize the PLO and present our plans to them." Sinyurah believes that the formula of territories for peace is acceptable to the Arabs. "We would be prepared to discuss an arrangement that would lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state."

Yet East Jerusalem figures maintain that Sinyurah is no longer the authentic leader of the population in the territories. Besides, they add, he met with Shultz 2 weeks ago, so what news can he bring with him? People in East

Jerusalem maintain that "there are people in the territories who speak evil of the United States in the morning, but at night share a bottle of whiskey with the consul. The uprising will change that, too."

It is now clear that the autonomy plan will not be accepted in the territories; nor will the Allon plan, interim arrangements, or any other proposals that will leave control over the area in Israel's hands. The uprising has imbued the Palestinians with high motivation with regard to a sovereign state.

Shultz will undoubtedly not enjoy great support in the territories. Actually, it would be safe to assume that the moment he arrives, the rocks and truncheons will again be the stars on our screens.

RAKAH, PLO Agree on Mutual Representation

TA191306 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Report from Britain by Dafna Vardi]

[Text] A secret agreement on mutual representation was signed last October between leaders of the PLO and RAKAH. This was learned yesterday from reliable sources in London.

The sources said the agreement was signed on 18 October in Moscow when leaders of the two groups were visiting the Soviet Union on the occasion of the celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution. The agreement states that the PLO will be represented in Israel by RAKAH, whereas the latter would be represented by the PLO in the territories and the Arab countries. The agreement is signed by both 'Arafat and Hawatimah.

The agreement comes in the wake of the joint communiques issued by the leaders of the two groups following their meetings in Moscow. The PLO's purpose in this agreement may have been to encourage those Israeli Arabs who are eligible voters to vote for RAKAH in the upcoming elections. The PLO's growing influence over Israel's Arabs could be significant for RAKAH, which can now hope for larger support from Arab voters.

Wilner Denies Mutual Representation With PLO

TA201741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] HADASH Knesset Member [MK] Me'ir Wilner has denied reports alleging that a secret agreement exists between the PLO and HADASH according to which the PLO would call upon its supporters to vote for HADASH in Knesset elections, while HADASH would support the PLO.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that MK Wilner voiced the denial at a HADASH Council convention which took place this morning in Haifa officially launching the HADASH election campaign.

Shamir, Likud Ministers Discuss Political Issues

TA181841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] In their weekly meeting at the prime minister's office today, the Likud ministers decided to hold another discussion to determine the Likud's final position prior to the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The Herut ministers also discussed the proposal of uniting with the Liberal Party. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports.

[Begin recording] There were two separate meetings at the prime minister's office today. The first concerned internal party affairs, unifying the Likud. The Herut ministers discussed this in the wake of the situation that developed after the Liberals' announcement that they are prepared for this. It was decided that Minister David Levi and Knesset Member Moshe Arens will hold contacts with the Liberal ministers. Also to be discussed is the draft unification document which was signed by Ministers Nisim and Levi about 18 months ago.

The second meeting was attended by all the Likud ministers. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reported about his visit to Italy. The prime minister emphasized that the timing of the visit was appropriate, following visits to Europe by President Mubarak and King Husayn, and when we are having disagreements with the Europeans. The prime minister said that the present visit was just as good as previous visits he remembers as foreign minister since 1980. The ministers were also briefed about the criticism leveled by the prime minister in the wake of the attempt by the European Parliament to impose sanctions on Israel. The prime minister also told the Likud ministers that no meeting had been planned with King Husayn.

The Likud ministers also discussed the upcoming visit by Secretary Shultz. It was decided to hold another meeting to determine the Likud's final position prior to the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state. It was said that the Americans have ideas, not a plan, and that it would be necessary to wait to hear about them.

During the meeting there was also reference to Shim'on Peres' remarks today on getting out of Gaza. This is an idea the Likud cannot accept. Also, the prime minister is prepared to hold negotiations with Shultz together with the vice prime minister, on condition that there is agreement on policy. It is pointless to quarrel in the presence of the U.S. secretary of state, the prime minister said. [end recording]

Human Rights Commission Denies Kinnock Charges

TA221908 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] A delegation of the International Human Rights Commission says there is no proof to the allegations of British Labor leader Neil Kinnock that IDF soldiers had been using dumdum bullets. Members of the delegation, who accompanied Kinnock on his visit to Israel and the territories accused him of exaggeration and impulsiveness. They said no allegations about dumdum bullets were raised when they visited a Gaza hospital with Kinnock. Delegation members said IDF troops are not under orders to carry out cruel acts in the territories, but they said soldiers are forced to interpret unclear orders, especially those of Defense Minister Rabin.

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

TA211954 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs William Hayden arrived in Israel for a visit this evening. He conferred in Jerusalem with U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering to discuss the Middle East peace initiatives. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez was later told that Australia supports the general outline of Secretary of State George Shultz' initiative and welcomes any plan likely to promote peace.

Hayden will meet with Israel's leaders and Palestinian notables tomorrow and will sign the first agreement on economic cooperation between Israel and Australia.

Meets With Peres; Signs Accord

TA221119 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden met with his counterpart Shim'on Peres today and expressed support for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' new political initiative. Peres said in the meeting that one should not be seized by pessimism, and everybody should give a hand to ensure the success of the Shultz mission. In the Israeli foreign minister's opinion, the Soviet stance on the political process in the region is not yet clear, and there are differences of opinion between Israel and the USSR on the nature of the international conference.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that at the end of the meeting, the two signed a new agreement on economic cooperation between Australia and Israel.

Supports U.S. Peace Plan

TA221411 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden, who is visiting Israel, said he learned during his visits to Arab countries that the PLO would not be an obstacle to furthering the peace process.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Minister Hayden met this morning in Jerusalem with his counterpart Shim'on Peres, and expressed support for George Shultz's initiative as it was reported to him by the U.S. ambassador in Israel. Mr Peres said the source of the Palestinian problem is not the territories but their inhabitants. He said Jordan must be the main partner for negotiations, and not the PLO because it is incapable of making decisions. On the international conference idea, Mr Peres said that if its powers are limited there would be no problem in including the Soviet Union. Its inclusion would be on the condition that it renew diplomatic relations with Israel and permit emigration.

In the afternoon at East Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel Minister Hayden met with a group of Palestinians, including Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1330 GMT on 22 February adds that on emerging from the meeting, Frayj said that "Palestinian notables in the territories have not yet received any invitation for a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and even if such an invitation is received there will be no meeting whatsoever with Shultz".]

Expresses Concern Over Unrest

TA230629 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Toasting Israeli-Australian friendship at a state dinner in Jerusalem last night, Australia's Foreign Minister Bill Hayden voiced concern at the continued unrest in the territories. He also said Australians could not agree with what he called the arbitrary and sometimes violent ways Israel used to deal with the situation. Gid'on Remez asked the foreign minister whether Australia could offer alternatives to this policy.

[Begin recording] [Hayden] I don't think it's our obligation to be laying down prescriptive guidelines and, in fact, I have been saying that consistently. All I can say to you is that I saw Mr Rabin quoted in the paper this morning saying force isn't working—and I couldn't invoke a greater authority than Mr Rabin.

[Remez] Do you think that voicing the kind of direct, rather blunt, criticism that we have been hearing, not only from you but from other foreign visitors as well, serves the correct purpose in stirring the Israeli leadership in the direction you'd like them to go into?

[Hayden] Well, the direction we'd like them to go into is a very broad, generalized one. And, we have been much more direct and blunt with people nearby, in particular the Syrians. We are good friends and reliable friends of Israel, and we'll stay that way. I think we also have an obligation to express our concerns, because in situations like these some strain comes on us in maintaining our position of support, and we want to maintain that position of support. [end recording]

Hayden Departs 23 Feb

TA231643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Australian foreign minister suggests that Israel sever itself from the Gaza Strip, because holding on to it is detrimental to Israel. Minister Hayden said that while visiting a Gaza hospital he saw patients with gunshot wounds, some of them wounded by dumdum bullets. He called on Israel to stop handing out live ammunition to young inexperienced soldiers and added that he believed the Israeli authorities have already begun doing so.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Minister Hayden made these remarks at Ben-Gurion Airport shortly before his departure.

Syrian, Iraqi MiG-29's Operational in 'Few Months'

TA221331 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by aviation affairs correspondent Arye Egozi]

[Text] The modern MiG-29's received by Syria and Iraq will be operational within the next few months.

A very senior source in the Israeli Air Force has disclosed that Soviet experts are currently in the two countries to complete the training of the pilots. According to this source, Syria received one squadron of MiG-29's, and Iraq has also received a similar number of these aircraft.

The source points out that the MiG-29's are an important qualitative acquisition, but they will not fundamentally change the regional balance of power in the air.

Military Denies Capture of 'Gunmen' in North

TA221903 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] REUTER reports from Lebanon that Israeli border troops have captured two Palestinian gunmen trying to infiltrate from southern Lebanon. The report, quoting sources close to the South Lebanese Army, says the soldiers seized the men last night 500 meters north of the frontier. The sources said the terrorists apparently planned to launch an attack inside Israel. Israeli military sources said they knew nothing of the reported capture.

Rabin Says Government United on Unrest Policy

TA230640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister said the government is united in its policy of suppressing violence in the territories, but is divided over the political solution. Minister Rabin, who addressed the council of national workers committees attached to the Labor Party, said there were only isolated cases of irregularities by the IDF in the territories, considering the thousands of soldiers involved in the events. Very few armies in the world would have acted with such restraint in the face of attempted stabbings and the hatred encountered in close physical contact. He said the IDF began suppressing the violence with truncheons and beatings following international demands not to quell it with live ammunition.

Chief of Staff Issues Orders on Use of Force

TA231238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The chief of staff is issuing instructions to soldiers today on the use of force in the territories.

The defense minister said the decision to issue the instructions was taken before he received the attorney general's letter on this matter. Minister Rabin was speaking in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military judge advocate, also attended the meeting. He said the IDF has clear instructions on how to employ force.

Minister Rabin told the members of the committee that calm has not been restored in the territories, and the situation has even deteriorated. This is the reason for the increase in the number of fatalities.

Delay in Hassan Call for Arab Summit 'Strange'

TA191818 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Extraordinary Summit and the Amazing Condition"]

[Text] Morocco's King Hassan II has called for an extraordinary Arab summit to convene in a month or two to discuss the Arab variables created by the uprising in the occupied territories. If it is natural for such a call to be issued now by this or that king or president in the Arab region, it is strange indeed for this call to be linked to a delay until the end of next month or the one after, coupled with the condition that the blazing fire in the occupied land calms down. This amazement, however, disappears at once when it becomes clear that the main motive behind the Moroccan king's invitation is in fact not so much a concern to convene an Arab summit for discussing, following up, and adopting decisions, as it is the intense concern to end the uprising that has been going on for 3 months, or at least to try to calm down the situation. This is precisely what Israeli officials have been calling for since the uprising overshadowed political events in the region. They have been trying to peddle tranquillity in order to reach calm political negotiations.

The U.S. Administration itself, which more than others is interested in abolishing any legitimate Palestinian role in any future political settlement, has not dared to call for a delay or postponement. It decided to send its

secretary of state to the region without making it conditional on a calm situation in the occupied territories, and has proposed to all the parties its new initiatives for discussion and review despite the "blazing fire."

Naturally, as we have repeatedly stated and reiterate now, we reject this initiative, but the Moroccan king as well as all the Arab rulers are in no hurry since Washington has made up its mind and has decided on a speedy step in the region. They will then meet to study and discuss the results of this U.S. step.

Arab Rulers Faulted on Events in Territories
TA191657 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 17 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Where Are the Arab Regimes With Regard to What Is Happening in the Occupied Territories?"]

[Text] We do not intend to review the failed or foiled peace efforts, but we wish to pose the following urgent question that should be asked very loudly in light of the current events and circumstances: Where are you, O Arabs? Where are the Arab regimes with regard to what is happening in the occupied territories?

What is happening undoubtedly necessitates an immediate and large-scale action regarding responsibility. Is there any sign of this action? And are the Arab regimes that are spread from the Atlantic to the Gulf undertaking the simplest pan-Arab reaction toward what they call the "kinfolk" in the occupied territories?

Anyone hoping to see Arab reactions toward the events taking place in the "occupied part of the land," as some Arabs like to repeat constantly, will find that the reactions call for ridicule, pity, and indignation. Why?

The answer comes immediately: The Arab regimes are extremely expert in matters that ignore the calls of their nations. They have gained this expertise from several events. For example, that disgraceful Arab silence when our Palestinian people were under siege in Beirut for 88 days. The world acted then, but the Arab regimes did not act, offering nothing significant to the Palestinian people.

The answer comes at once: The Arab regimes are still preoccupied with acute differences among themselves, ignoring the interests, aspirations, and hopes of the Arab nations, foremost of which is the Palestinian nation.

In the view of the civilized world, the Arab regimes insist on remaining a facade causing a great deal of shame and anguish for the Arab nations.

These laughingstock regimes insist on maintaining false appearances by which they strive to mislead their unfortunate people into believing that they are independent states, members of the United Nations, and members of the Arab League linked by the fallacies of the "joint Arab defense." In reality they are not linked except by a conspiracy against the destiny of the Arab nation and by agreeing to remain weak, impotent, and lax. They are also linked by having to hang on to the seats of power with their teeth, hoping that the storm will come after every Arab king and his heirs are gone. But for how long?

Yes, how long will these scornful leaders remain in their deep sleep? Are these Arab regimes not ashamed of their dependency on superpowers that can be of no benefit either to the Arab nations in general or the Palestinian people in particular?

It is amazing to find certain Arab governments singing the praises of the uprising in the occupied territories but at the same time not allowing their people to express the slightest sympathy with this uprising.

Police See Israeli Arab Swing to 'Radical' Views
TA211119 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpts] Nazareth—A petrol bomb was thrown at a police station in Umm al-Fahm on Friday evening, while another was hurled at the Hamashbir store here after Thursday midnight amid growing tension in the Israeli Arab sector because of the continuing unrest in the territories. There were no injuries in either incident.

Israeli Arab leaders yesterday condemned the attacks, saying that the perpetrators of such "illegal acts" did not have widespread support among the Arab population generally withing the Green Line.

Police sources said the petrol bombings and other recent incidents, including the stoning of vehicles near Al-Taiyiba village in the Triangle, indicated a "new situation."

They stressed, however, that it was too early to draw any conclusions. "The only thing we can say is that the situation now is very different from what it was three months ago," said Northern District Police spokesman, Rav Pakad [superintendent] Yehoshu'a Sinay.

Privately, however, there is a feeling among police of a dangerous swing among radical attitudes on the part of some Israeli Arabs which they fear could erupt in outbreaks of violence. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the national committee of Arab local councils, said he deplored the violence and hoped there would be no further incidents.

Husayn, who is mayor of Shefar'am, noted that following the stoning incidents in Al-Taiyiba members of the national committee had visited the village, spoken to leaders there and distributed leaflets calling on residents not to break the law.

His deputy, Muhammad Ghanayim, who is head of Sakhnin local council, said that the petrol bomb attack was totally unacceptable and Arab leaders would do all in their power to ensure that violence did not erupt within the Green Line.

Nevertheless, he said, there was tension because of the continuing disturbances, deaths and beatings in Gaza and the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Sentenced for 'Unreasonable Force'

TA221319 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Shim'on Alqabetz, Ilan Kfir, and Menahem Shezaf]

[Excerpt] Over the weekend Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, briefed Chief of Staff Dan Shomron on Military Police investigations currently being conducted. The investigations are of soldiers using unreasonable force toward inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

Investigators of the Military Police Criminal Investigations Division conducted comprehensive debriefings over the last few weeks and collected numerous testimonies from soldiers and inhabitants. In several instances it was recommended that soldiers be brought to trial. Four Golani Brigade soldiers have recently been sentenced to prison terms of 21 to 28 days for using unreasonable force. [passage omitted]

More on Continuing Unrest in Territories

Stabbing Attempt in Ramallah

TA221148 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] Minor disturbances were registered in the territories this morning. These included stone throwing, the erection of stone barriers, and setting tires on fire.

Exceptional events took place in Judaea and Samaria today as well. At approximately 1130 this morning an attempt was made to stab an Israeli soldier in Ramallah's Manara Square. The soldiers on the patrol immediately captured the assailant, who was detained for interrogation.

A firebomb was thrown this morning at a military vehicle driving through Al-Quds Street in Ramallah. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Stone barriers were erected near the cemetery in Ramallah. IDF troops chased stone-throwing youngsters from the area.

In Judaea and Samaria, curfews remain in effect in Qalqilyah, Dinba, and the refugee camps of Al-Am'ari, Al-Jalazun, and Tulkarm.

There were also disturbances in several locations in the Gaza Strip, including stone throwing and setting tires on fire.

In Khan Yunus, the scene of yesterday's riots, two schools were closed this morning after student rioted and pelted IDF soldiers with rocks. Stones were also thrown at passing cars in the vicinity of the cemetery in Al-Shaja'iyah.

As may be recalled, calls were made to the residents of the territories to hold memorial services today for the victims of the riots. Few people appear to have heeded the call and, in general, quiet prevailed in the areas where there were no riots.

According to data received by military sources, thousands of workers left for their jobs in Israel today and transportation in the territories is running normally. Business was slow in Judaea and Samaria until noon, while in the Gaza Strip the commercial strike continues, although the vegetable markets are open.

Rafah Resident Sentenced

TA222032 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Gaza military court today meted out a 5-year jail sentence, all of which was suspended except 18 months, to a Rafah resident found guilty of hurling bottle and glass shards at IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Moti Amir that the defendant, Ihsan Khalil Abu Faris of Rafah, pleaded guilty. According to the indictment, on 9 January he hurled empty bottles and glass shards from a Rafah rooftop at IDF soldiers.

2 Killed, 2 Wounded 22 Feb

TA230817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Two Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria were killed last night. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a 13-year-old girl was killed in the village of Baqah al-Sharqiyah, and an Israeli resident was consequently detained for questioning.

A resident of the village of Al-Yamun in the Janin area was killed during a riot. Residents hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at an IDF force, wounding two soldiers. The soldiers fired at the rioters, killing the Al-Yamun resident. A curfew was imposed on the village, and the IDF is carrying out arrests.

Tabah Arbitration Team Arrives, Tours Area

TA171036 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Feb 88

[Text] The team of international arbitrators on the Tabah dispute arrived at the disputed area from Sharm al-Shaykh a few minutes ago. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that right now the arbitrators are aboard an MFO helicopter and are flying over the Tabah area to form their own impressions of the area before they begin hearing Israel's and Egypt's arguments in Geneva.

Foreign Ministry legal adviser Robi Sabel, who heads the Israeli team, told our political correspondent that this tour is a technicality connected with the arbitration process, which is scheduled to end in 90 days.

Inspection Supports Israel

TA180542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry legal adviser Robi Sabel says that Israel's position in the Tabah dispute has been strengthened following the visit to Tabah by the international arbitration team. Sabel told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that following yesterday's inspection, it appears that the Israeli claim is in line with the 1906 agreement on the demarcation of the border, while the Egyptian claim is unfounded and does not conform to the agreement. Israeli and Egyptian representatives agreed last night that they will try to reach a compromise before the arbitration begins at the beginning of March.

Al-Masri Discusses Peace Policy, U.S. Aims

JN191938 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1735 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by Radio Monte Carlo News Director Antoine Nawfal "2 days ago" and carried within the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Jordan's political and diplomatic moves are countered by similar moves toward Jordan from outside: Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i visits the most important Arab capitals within a week; Amman receives Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Political Department in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin; and Amman is getting ready to receive U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. It seems there is a process to speed political action. Indeed, some say that something very important is apparently being prepared for the Middle East for Shultz to move personally. In short, there can be no smoke without fire. What is the story, Your Excellency, what is your opinion?

[Al-Masri] Jordan's moves are taking two directions. The first is approaching international powers, namely, the United States, the European states, and other world political centers, with the aim of enlisting their support for Jordan's views concerning a peaceful settlement, especially the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East. As you have heard in the news, for some time his majesty and the Jordanian Government have been contacting these sides and obtaining full support for these ideas. Therefore, our moves from Amman to the outside world are aimed at realizing support for Arab ideas in general and Jordanian ideas in particular.

As for our moves toward the Arab countries, we are endeavoring to brief Arab brothers on our efforts and the ideas we obtained from the main world capitals—Washington, Moscow, Paris, and other capitals. No doubt there is [word indistinct] to these contacts, both towards Jordan and from Jordan towards the others. The uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, this heroic Palestinian fighting in the occupied territories, has changed the realities and imposed new factors. Therefore, Jordan and his majesty had to move with speed to do something. As a result, this glorious uprising should be translated into political work. Jordan bears a special responsibility in this regard. The PLO also bears responsibility, even before Jordan.

[Nawfal] We will return to the responsibility of Jordan and the PLO later. Philip Habib visited Jordan and he was followed by Murphy. There is much talk about U.S. ideas now, 1 week before Shultz' visit. Why U.S. ideas? What do you know about these ideas? Do these ideas meet with Arab ideas, the Jordanian ideas?

[Al-Masri] The U.S. intends to do something quick with regard to the occupied territory and the Palestinian problem. Again I say that the uprising has imposed these moves on the U.S. Administration. Still, there are certain incomplete points concerning what the Americans are proposing. What we, the U.S. Government, and others are dealing with—for instance the Murphy visit to Syria—is incomplete. However, in this regard I would like to affirm that Jordan is prepared to respond to any ideas or initiatives seeking a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian problem. We always call for exchanging the land for peace.

If the U.S. Administration is prepared to make an initiative or present views in this direction, Jordan will be at the forefront of those who seek such a peaceful solution. I again say that thus far the American ideas are not yet complete. Perhaps when U.S. Secretary of State Shultz arrives in the region he may have clearer ideas or a picture of what the United States wants or imagines.

At this moment we can say that what we, as Jordan, have heard thus far would be positive. However, we should also examine every word and every thing that is issued because it is not useful to quickly or hastily judge anything. Any comment on U.S. initiatives or ideas is premature. However, as I said, we welcome any ideas. We do not want the Arabs to be blamed for disrupting any ideas. Therefore, we are open and ready for discussion. This is what we are currently doing.

[Nawfal] Can Your Excellency give us an idea, even if it is a rough one, of one of the U.S. ideas?

[Al-Masri] I believe it would not be suitable to talk specifically about such issues because, as I have explained, the U.S. notes its desire to do some quick, positive, and specific thing to settle the Palestine question. However, if we speak roughly about these ideas we would harm the positive ideas. We would also harm the Arab or U.S. efforts.

[Nawfa] Can we say there is a positive U.S. atmosphere?

[Al-Masri] Yes, I can say this.

[Nawfal] Jordan coordinates separately with Syria and Egypt and meets separately with the Palestinian side. Is it in full agreement with Syria first?

[Al-Masri] Regarding what?

[Nawfal] Regarding issues related to the international conference.

[Al-Masri] Regarding the international conference, yes we are in full agreement with Syria.

[nawfal] And with Egypt?

[Al-Masri] And certainly with Egypt and the PLO

[Nawfal] At any rate, relations with the PLO have passed through various stages. The last of these stages indicate that the dialogue was restored. However, stands are almost still revolving in a vicious circle. Each side has its own stand, that is, unless the first meeting with the Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] produced results that we do not know about and that were entrenched during the second meeting which began yesterday, as far as I know.

[Al-Masri] The first meeting was positive and excellent. The two sides emerged from the talks satisfied with what took place and hoping to meet soon. The meeting that was held with Abu Mazin yesterday has a different nature to some extent because although it had the characteristics of the first meeting, it was not a continuation of that meeting. Because I believe this is our duty, we have put the PLO in the picture of his majesty's visit to Europe and in the picture of Philip Habib's visit to Amman. We have also acquainted the PLO with all we heard from all of these sides regarding a solution, the conference, and our approach. Brother Abu Mazin was happy with the meeting and with this idea of coordination.

[Nawfal] Until the recent meeting with the PLO delegation, Amman continued to say: We begin from where we stopped. This means from UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Has the PLO's stand toward a settlement in accordance with these resolutions developed?

[Al-Masri] To the best of our knowledge the PLO does not categorically reject Resolution 242. However, [words indistinct] this is the PLO stand toward this issue. We have explained to the PLO what we heard from others on Resolution 242 and that it is necessary to accept it. It might not be among the major issues now to focus on such points—I mean whether the world should know where the PLO has reached regarding this point and where Jordan has reached with the PLO on this point. There are facts which became larger and wider regarding all of these issues.

The affairs between us and the PLO are currently progressing in a good manner. In light of the facts I have mentioned, foremost being the uprising, our relations should achieve further progress. We must not pause for a long time at these points. Jordan and the PLO should reach a formula for understanding and representation. This began during the first meeting with the PLO delegation led by Abu Mazin. Then, it continued with its other formula, also with Abu Mazin, the day before yesterday.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, as you said, the uprising in the occupied territories has changed facts and the external view toward these territories. In this regard, is there any coordination between Jordan and the PLO regarding the uprising?

[Al-Masri] We have a joint view toward the importance and the wonderful nature of the uprising and its political results. Yes, yes we agree with the PLO and even with the whole world because the whole world's assessment of this uprising is almost unanimous. I do not want to say it is only a positive assessment; it is also wonderful.

[Nawfal] Does Jordan want the uprising to continue as it is now in the current stage?

[Al-Masri] Certainly.

[Nawfal] Let me go back to relations between Amman, Damascus, and Cairo. Amman is in agreement with Cairo, of course, regarding an international conference--in agreement with Cairo and Damascus. Can we deduce that an agreement is possible and imminent between Damascus and Cairo, at least on an international conference as we said?

[Al-Masri] You have said that the agreement on an international conference is not bilateral, between Amman and Cairo, but a tripartite one. However, because of the absence of diplomatic and political contacts between the two countries or the two capitals, Cairo and Damascus, it seems as if there are differences. But, there are no differences regarding views on an international conference.

[Nawfal] Cairo says the Palestinian representative to the international conference must obtain the PLO's authorization to be able to speak at the conference. Is this also Jordan's position?

[Al-Masri] Our principled stand is that the PLO should participate in the international conference. An invitation should be extended to the PLO by the UN secretary general when the conference has been agreed upon.

[Nawfal] And the PLO will authorize whom it sees fit?

[Al-Masri] This is up to the PLO and is contingent on the circmstances surrounding the beginning of the conference at that time.

[Nawfal] Three weeks ago, 'Arafat said he is completely in the dark about the confidentialities [khususiyat] pertaining to the joint Jordanian-Syrian concept of an international conference. Is there any Jordanian-Syrian confidentialities pertaining to this joint concept?

[Al-Masri] I do not know what Brother Yasir 'Arafat means by this because there is no Syrian-Jordanian confidentialities regarding the concept of the international conference. However, the entire Arab side, as far as we know, is agreed on this conference, on its many details, and on its effectiveness. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is involved, albeit indirectly, in this understanding.

[Nawfal] The famous formula, land in exchange for peace, is now in full swing. Egypt does not approve of the autonomy and Shamir rejects land for peace ideas, and

Rabin says: Yes, but not the entire territory. To what limits will Jordan adhere to in talks with Shultz, given that it was the first to propose this land for peace formula?

[Al-Masri] We call for implementing Resolution No 242 which deals with withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This is our principled stand. When we came out with the expression land in exchange for peace, we derived this formula from all the provisions of Resolution 242. This principle, as I have mentioned, is accepted by everyone. Shamir rejects Resolution 242 and this principle. No matter what Shamir, Rabin, Peres, or others say, we should ahdere to this principle, this resolution, the complete withdrwal from the occupied territory.

[Nawfal] Thus far, Jordan has shown great reservations toward the United States. It is now wondering loudly: How can we believe U.S. words if it vetoes a simple resolution? Do you believe the issues will change given the Habib and Murphy visits, and the upcoming Shultz visit?

[Al-Masri] We hope so. However, our experience with the United States—the Arab experince in general with them—has been a bitter one. We were greatly disappointed many times and stabbed in the back many times. Therefore, when you first brought up the U.S. talks with me I did not want to commit myself. I did not want to make a positive or negative comment because it is necessary that we hear the details of such ideas in order to make up our minds about them. We should not deceive the listeners or Arab and Jordanian citizens by making them hope more than necessary. This is due to the fact that in the past the United States did not enable us to make moves on many issues.

[Nawfal] As we have said, his majesty toured Europe and you accompanied him. Did you hear encouraging European statements toward the peace conference and the Jordanian role in particular?

[Al-Masri] We heard very encouraging statements not only about an international conference but also on the various issues related to the Palestinian issue and its ramifications. The Europeans have been committed to the international conference since last February. They have called for this and they reiterated their position in a statement after their recent meeting in Bonn which his majesty attended. We also heard a lot of talk about these governments' consternation toward the Israeli actions and their admiration for the uprising and the patriotic and heroic spirit of the Palestinian people, who are fighting the entire Israeli army with stones. They also talk boldly about the Palestinian people, Palestinian rights, and the need to do something in this direction.

It seems that the entire world, especially the West, has been discussing the occupation over the past 20 years. However, the word occupation was used in an offhand manner. It did not emanate from their minds or hearts. Now, after the uprising, when the European speaks about the Israeli occupation, he is fully aware of the meaning of this word and is comparing the occupation of the West Bank with the military occupation of Europe. They compare the Palestinian people's uprising with the national resistance of the European peoples against the Nazi occupation.

We never heard such a thing in the past. We used to hear beautiful expressions, strong phrases to some extent. But we have never experienced such a European commitment to the Palestinians, the Palestinian cause, and the occupied territory. We and his majesty were very happy with what we heard. Arab citizens must have heard the EC foreign ministers' statement, which was one of their most strongly worded statements on the Middle East situation.

[Nawfal] Your Excellency, here is a question that you may or may not answer. Don't you think the return ship has, to some extent, overshadowed reports on the uprising and on what is taking place in the occupied territories?

[Al-Masri] I do not believe so. The uprising and reports on it are much greater than a single incident such as the return ship. This is first. Second, the return ship has hit a very raw nerve for both the Jews and the Israelis. It was necessary to remind the world of a similar incident and a similar ship which was prepared by Israel, before it was established. Then, the ship was blown up. This proved Israel's terrorist nature and that Israel would not hesitate to flagrantly carry out any action against the Palestinians and the Arabs on territories of other states. Therefore, I believe the return ship was a good idea and achieved its goals. Even if the ship was blown up by Israel, Israel cannot erase the impact of such incidents.

[Nawfal] Thank you for this frank answer. In your opinion, is there any connection between the Middle East and the Gulf crises?

[Al-Masri] Yes, there is a connection.

[Nawfal] Regarding what?

[Al-Masri] Regarding the fact that two parts of the Arab world are being exposed to an onslaught by foreign forces, and that a state, such as Iran, is carrying out a war, attacking, and seeking to occupy the territories of a major Arab state which has a major role not only in the Arab world, but also in confronting Israel. Iran distracts this country, Iraq, from playing its national and pan-Arab role toward Israel. This is on the one hand. On the other hand, there is the role of the superpowers in the two crises, the Palestine question and the Iraq-Iran war.

When the superpowers become involved they only think of their interests and of exploiting the region's states in a manner securing their own interests. The fewer the

hotbeds of tension in the Arab world there are, the more we become able to focus efforts on the Palestine question and on Israel and its occupation of our territories.

[Nawfal] At the beginning of this talk, particularly when I asked you whether Jordan coordinates with Syria, I noticed you were somewhat astonished. Why?

[Al-Masri] No, I was not astonished.

[Nawfal] Not at all? You asked me regarding what. I told you regarding an international conference. Then you told me, yes there is coordination. Does this coordination exist regarding other issues such as the Gulf war?

[Al-Masri] I cannot call it coordination in this regard because we and Syria have differences on this issue. However, there are deliberations, discussions, and a review of some issues. However, coordination exists when you have similar stands. Our stands toward the Iraq-Iran war are not alike. However, we adopt the same stands on an international conference, and, of course, toward other issues that are—to a great deal—similar to the Syrian stands.

[Nawfal] It is clear that the situation has deteriorated between Damascus and Baghdad. Some say Iraq has asked you to stop your efforts. How true is this and will Jordan, despite all obstacles, resume its efforts between the two fraternal countries?

[Al-Masri] When Jordan and his majesty the king began efforts to hold meetings between the two fraternal countries it was believed that if the two countries and the two leaders met, then all equations in the region would change. It was very important to work in this direction because Arab fragmentation had reached a miserable point. We believe that the countdown regarding the closing of the ranks should basically begin with having a meeting between the Iraqis and the Syrians. Our attempts succeeded to a large extent at the beginning. Then, the summit in Amman came to intensify these attempts in cooperation with other Arab leaders. The Amman summit was considered a great success.

One of the reasons for this success was the hopes the Arab pinned on the Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation. Matters began to take a positive course. We were satisfied with the progress of this reconciliation because we did not expect matters to have any other course. We knew matters would develop slowly, but positively. Regrettably, matters did not develop in the same manner in which they began. This is very regrettable, particularly at this time when every Arab hopes that ranks will be closed to confront threats and support the uprising. His majesty the king's continuous objective is to close ranks and have the two Arab leaders meet as much as possible and whenever appropriate.

[Nawfal] Notwithstanding this, Your Excellency, is it possible to say that the Amman summit has produced results?

[Al-Masri] Certainly.

[Nawfal] In what areas, the resumption of Arab ties with Egypt, for example?

[Al-Masri] For one thing, yes. The fact that the Arabs have shown themselves capable of reaching a consensus is another. You asked me about relations between the two countries. But there is another resolution on the Iraq-Iran war which is a good one. Then, there is a resolution on Iranian aggression against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

[Nawfal] All of the Arabs adhere to this resolution?

[Al-Masri] Exactly. This is what I mean to say. The resolution is being largely respected.

[Nawfal] I have a traditional question about Lebanon, Your Excellency. Are there prospects for a solution in light of what you have heard and seen during the numerous tours by His Majesty King Husayn?

[Al-Masri] All are concerned for Lebanon. They want to do something to help this genuinely Arab country. However, there apparently seems to be no single quarter capable of forcing a settlement in Lebanon. The country's fragmentation, the multiplicity of the interfering parties and interests involved, and the protracted war make it extremely difficult for one or two parties to force a settlement. It takes a combination of local, Arab, and international efforts to solve the Lebanese problem. A solution to the Mideast problem can possibly lead to a Lebanese settlement. I don't mean to be pessimistic over the chances for a settlement there since many people hope a Lebanese solution will come sooner. But there may be a link.

[Nawfal] Can Lebanon participate in an international conference?

[Al-Masri] Yes, of course. As far as we are concerned, Lebanon must attend. This is why I said a solution to the Mideast problem could lead to a Lebanese settlement.

[Nawfal] Is it possible to say that the world, particularly the Mideast, is headed toward an international conference?

[Al-Masri] This is my firm belief despite the opposition of Shamir and certain U.S. circles. An international conference is inevitable. The opponents of the conference are only exacerbating the misery of the people, wasting time, and complicating things. As you know, the proposed international conference commands universal support. Only Shamir and the United States are against it. Maybe before long Shamir will be the only dissenter.

'Official' Position on Peace Visit Outlined

JN230931 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Feb 88 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—While Jordan refrains from making any comments on current American efforts to reactivate Middle East peace efforts, it welcomes the scheduled visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Jordan and other countries of the area, according to the official position outlined by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin Monday.

Dudin reiterated that Jordan would only accept offers which lead to the convening of an international peace conference. "We are not with any reactivation of the peace process which does not lead to an international peace conference," Dudin told representatives of the local and the international press during the weekly Monday circle, organised by Press and Publication Department Director-General Musa al-Kilani.

Dudin made it clear that there was a Jordanian decision not to comment on any reports about the American initiative prior to Shultz' tour in the region, to leave it to American officials to disclose details about Washington's efforts to reactivate the peace process and to exchange views and information with all Arab governments and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"(The Jordanian position) is not to make any announcement because these are basically American moves and we will leave it Shultz to talk about them when he comes," he said.

Dudin disclosed that following the visit made by American special envoy Richard Murphy to the area three weeks ago, Jordan expressed its desire to convey to the PLO the results of the American-Jordanian talks. Consequently, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas visited Amman last week to exchange information and views with the Jordanian Government, Dudin explained.

Dudin implied that neither Jordan and the PLO had changed their basic positions on the peace process and which led to Jordan's suspension of political coordination with the PLO. But he added that contacts with the PLO "were expected to continue...particularly in the light of the two major developments which took place in the Arab arena i.e. the Amman extraordinary (Arab) summit (last november) and the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli- occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Dudin expressed the view that the annulment of the basis for joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves—the Feb. 11, 1985 accord—by the PLO Executive Committee last April reflected "the various internal Palestinian pressures...and the PLO's anxiety to reunify the organisation."

But since the accord was not abrogated by a Palestine National Council (PNC) decision "...in essence the accord is still there," Dudin said.

Asked about Jordan's position on the PLO call on Palestinians in the occupied territories to boycott Shultz during his visit next week, Dudin said Jordan was leaving it to "the people (in the occupied territories) to decide."

New Israeli Measures (subhead)

Dudin described recently introduced Israeli measures restricting the flow of money to the occupied territories and introducing new conditions for permitting the movement of the Palestinians across the bridges as "violations of the Geneva conventions concerning the rights of the people under occupation."

Israel said earlier this week that no individual from the West Bank and Gaza can transfer more than JD 400 to the occupied territories without prior Israeli approval and that no Palestinian would be allowed to cross the bridges unless he or she had paid taxes in full to the occupation authorities.

According to Dudin, these "security techniques" are methods used to try "screen the person in question and to check his or her relationship with what is going on (the uprising)."

In a reply to a question about the effects of the Israeli measures on Jordan's development programme in the West Bank and Gaza, Dudin said that Jordan had always been cautious that its funding would not be blocked by Israeli "security" measures.

He explained that Jordan had always chosen projects which could not be categorised under Israel's "security" concerns and that any transfer of money was usually accompanied by a description of its purpose.

He said that it was still premature to judge the implications of the new Israeli measures on the Jordanian plan. "So far, it is just an arrangement...we shall wait and see how to work things out," he said.

Uprising Leadership [subhead]

Dudin said Jordan did not have enough information on the identity of the leadership of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza or if there was a unified leadership.

"We do not have enough information to judge if there is indeed a unified command for the uprising and if there is such a thing we are not sure of its identity and whether it adheres to a funmdamentalist religious trend, the PLO or the Communist Party...for we receive different leaflets signed by the Jihad, the Palestinian Communist Party and the Unified Command among others," he said.

"But if we knew we would not say," Dudin added.

In reply to a question he said Jordan would be ready to talk to a unified Palestinian leadership which could emerge in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but would not view this leadership as a substitute for the PLO. "When it comes to the question of representation, the issue is more complex...but we are sure that if such a leadeership emerged it would find a place within the ranks of the PNC," he said.

Dudin noted that the Palestinian uprising had given "precedence to the role of the people over that of any party concerned, with all due respects to all parties, including the PLO."

Paper Calls on U.S. to 'Widen' Mideast View

JN221519 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Feb 88 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Jordan's Political Move, Dialogue Against Firm Foundation"]

[Text] Our political moves are organised within an Arab context. They are aimed at crystallizing the stands accomplished by the historic Amman summit. These moves lay their foundations on and acquire their strength from flexibility, alertness, and the ability to deal with existing and developing stands strengthened by foreign political initiatives.

The Jordanian stand aquired its credibility because it deals with developments from a firm Arab base. Another reason for Jordanian credibility is that it is capable of taking stands and political attitudes from a resolution to the point at which this resolution aquires a mechanism enabling it to move in the international relations network. In turn, it finds in this movement a practical dimension that can bring peace opportunities closer and confront obstacles to them.

The support that the 12 European countries, in their council meeting held in Bonn this month, gave to the peace process and their call for the convening of an international conference under objective conditions—that is with the participation of the five most powerful countries and all parties to the dispute, including the PLO —has become one of basic motifs that have started to take their place on the way of achieving the international conference. It also reflects Israel's divergence from European unanimity in particular and world unanimity in general as it continues to defy peace opportunities and show intransigence toward them. Indeed, Israel is ruining all sincere international attempts to bring about peace.

If the Arab move, led by King Husayn, is taking final shape to deal with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' mission, it is based on a state of firmness and clear outlook to benefit from any possibility for pushing forward the peace process and making Israel lose the opportunity of foiling any mission in the region.

We think that judging and classifying Shultz' initiative depends on reading it. The positivity of this classification will depend on how far from or close to Israeli ideas the initiative is.

The Arabs, who unanimously agreed on the international conference at the Amman summit and on the bases of their moves, which are now led by Jordan, consider the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories a natural occurrence with new factors in the region that must be taken into consideration. The Arabs think that any attempts to continue imposing or conveying Israel's conditions will fail.

Autonomy, self-administration, or their derivatives cannot achieve a comprehensive and lasting solution.

The oppressive policies of the Israeli occupation and U.S. support for these policies will be the main obstacles to peace—obstacles that will lead the region to disaster unless international efforts are exerted to push the United States to change its pro-Israeli stand.

We believe that there is still enough time for the U.S. Administration to change its stands and its shortsighted Middle East policy, which is still a hostage to the Israeli extremest group represented by the Israeli prime minister. There is enough time for the U.S. Administration to widen the scope of its view of the facts so that it can be entitled to play a basic and improtant role in solving the Arab-Israeli dispute, which has been aggravated and begun to threaten the region and the world with an indefinite disaster.

Further on Kidnapping of Higgins, Response

Amal, UNIFIL Continue Search

NC221531 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The NNA correspondent in the south has reported that UNIFIL, in cooperation with the Amal Movement, has mounted a wide-scale search in the groves between Burj Rahhal and the Al-Litani River as part of the efforts to locate Lieutenant Colonel Higgins. Helicopters and police dogs are being used in the search. A similar operation took place in the same area last night. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, senior Shi'ite theoretician Shaykh Ibrahim Sulayman has denounced the ferocious campaign against the Amal Movement. He said that Amal and its leader Minister Nabih Birri are the only ones entitled to speak in the name of the south and the Shi'ites.

Amal Denies Mass Arrests

NC221752 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement's organizational official has declared that Lt Col Higgins' abduction confirms the policy of disdain for the future security of the south and for the safety and continuation of the resistance. This abduction disregards all the agreements assigning responsibility for the security of the south to the Amal Movement.

The official said that one of the basic duties of the Amal Movement is to arrest suspects. In this way, he asserted, the Movement may prevent the continuation of the new policy which seeks to use the south and its inhabitants as a card in international equations and pressures aimed at securing financial gains and transactions. He denied that the movement had made mass arrests.

Higgins 'Still' in South

NC221947 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Timor Goksel, the UNIFIL spokesman in south Lebanon, has told AFP that Lt Col William Higgins is still being held in the south, according to the information available to him. He said that the search for him centers on the sector where he was abducted, which comes under the operational area of the Fijian unit of UNIFIL.

He added that UNIFIL is concentrating its efforts on gathering information. Without information, he said, we could search all of Lebanon to no avail. He noted that Amal gunmen have helped in the areas they control, but added that no one should be blamed for the lack of information about the kidnappers.

Using armored vehicles and police dogs, 50 UNIFIL personnel searched the fields to the southeast of Sidon today.

UN Plans 'Adverse Measures'

NC222021 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reports that the UN secretary general intends to take several adverse measures if the American William Higgins and UNRWA officials Jorgensen and Stening are not freed. The agency adds that these measures include the withdrawal of another group of UN observers and the reduction of social and medical aid to the south.

Da'ud on Higgins, Kidnappers

JN230849 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Feb 88 p 13

[Interview with Da'ud Da'ud, chairman of the Amal Movement Executive Committee, by Zuhayr Majid in the village of Bidyas near Tyre in southern Lebanon—date not given]

[Text] In the absence of a legitimate Lebanese authority, you are now the only security force and you are primarily responsible for the people's lives and livelihood. What is new in the case of the kidnapped U.S. officer William Higgins?

[Da'ud] According to information obtained, we managed to arrest a number of persons involved in the kidnapping of the U.S. officer. Those participants are not the principal ones in the operation, but they enabled us to obtain rather important information which is being held in complete secrecy.

[Majid] Have you identified the specific location where the U.S. hostage is being held?

[Da'ud] Yes, but we cannot give the name of the area.

[Majid] Information affirms that he is in a southern village called Qabrikha, and specifically with the Hijazi family.

[Da'ud] That information was only for camouflage.

[Majid] What is the true information then?

[Da'ud] Our basic and certain information says he is still in the south. He is specifically either in the Al-Nabatiyah area or in the area south of the Nahr al-Litani (which is adjacent to the border strip). More specifically, we believe that he is in this second area, especially since those who participated in the kidnapping are from the Al-Nabatiyah area.

[Majid] How did the kidnapping take place, specifically?

[Da'ud] In fact, the U.S. officer is held responsible for his abduction. First, he announced he was coming to the area 5 days before his arrival. This in itself facilitated the kidnappers' task. The other point is that the kidnappers used highly-sophisticated methods in terms of the abduction itself and the number of cars used in transporting the hostage. Most importantly, the abducted individual did not put up any resistance whatsoever. Therefore, his abduction took only half a minute. This helped bring about the quick success of the operation.

[Majid] What is the reason for this abduction?

[Da'ud] There is one basic reason. It is the fact that the states whose citizens are kidnapped immediately yield to the kidnappers' blackmail, which is motivated by financial or other reasons.

[Majid] What do you demand these states do in this case?

[Da'ud] They should not yield in any way whatsoever. Thus, they will not encourage more operations against their citizens.

[Majid] I think this operation had an impact on the Amal Movement in particular.

[Da'ud] Before Amal, there are our people in the south. They are still stunned and almost shocked.

[Majid] From the strategic standpoint, do you not think distrust has begun to emerge between you and the people?

[Da'ud] I think this affair will affect the issue of all of southern Lebanon and, consequently, the Amal Movement in its capacity as a popular movement with a large presence and expansion in this important part of Lebanon.

[Majid] There are rumors that your confrontation of the kidnappers entails sympathy with the kidnapped American, if not a stand in the interest of America?

[Da'ud] I agree that the Americans are the cause of our calamity, but this does not mean we are against every American. I am against the U.S. policy and system that contradicts my people's interests, headed by the liberation of the occupied parts of my southern land and securing justice for our kinfolk in the south on the level of the Lebanese system.

[Majid] Did you manage to identify the kidnappers?

[Da'ud] The saying "how can I speak with water in my mouth" is applicable. The kidnappers and those supporting them are known to us.

[Majid] For example?

[Da'ud] I cannot say.

[Majid] Do you mean the Oppressed on Earth or Revolutionary Justice?

[Da'ud] These are names created on the spot. We know the real kidnappers. It is clear to us.

[Majid] Is there a possibility of or readiness for military confrontation with them?

[Da'ud] We have no red lines set for this issue. However, the negative and positive results of such an action are supposed to be studied. We are not interested in being immersed in blood. This issue is related to the Amal Movement because we are the only security instrument in southern Lebanon thus far. I also affirm to you that a superpower like America cannot do whatever it wishes, so how about us as a movement. There are always justifications and obstacles.

[Majid] Do you intend to carry out a military action if you manage to learn and specify the location of the kidnapped American?

[Da'ud] If we manage to specify the location of the kidnapped, we will do anything. However, we will not take the risk without information. I also affirm to you that if I manage to specify the location and if I must engage in a military action that will cost me 100 killed, I will not hesitate to carry it out.

[Majid] If you are sure now of the place in which the American is held...

[Da'ud, interrupting] I will implement the operation promptly.

[Majid] Do you believe there is more than one side responsible for the kidnapping?

[Da'ud] No, no, I do not think so.

[Majid] Are two sides participating in the kidnapping?

[Da'ud] No. There is only one side.

[Majid] Doesn't the abduction operation affect UNIFIL's job in the south?

[Da'ud] Ask the UN force.

[Majid] What about your contacts with it?

[Da'ud] We tell UNIFIL that you came to defend us, and here we are defending you.

[Majid] When do you expect an end to this abduction?

[Da'ud] If no external complications are involved, it will end soon.

[Majid] More specifically?

[Da'ud] Within a week or less. But if external complications are involved...

[Majid, interrupting] What do you mean by external complications, of what sort?

[Da'ud] There are many clear interferences.

[Majid] Are they purely southern or are they on a wider and more comprehensive level?

[Da'ud] You know we are in the south where we are the decisionmakers. We have Ra's Bayrut and a wing in Al-Biqa'. In short, we are one body. I do not believe the Amal leadership will submit to any external pressures.

[Majid] Do those who abducted the American constitute a significant field force?

[Da'ud] Do you believe the presence of 10 armed men constitutes a military force? In Lebanon, this is possible and the 10 armed men may become a field force.

[Majid] Do you believe the kidnapped American was sent to the border strip area as a temporary camouflage?

[Da'ud] No, I do not think so.

[Majid] What if you cannot reach a final solution regarding the return of the kidnapped individual this week?

[Da'ud] We will then be forced to expose a political stand, say who the kidnappers are, and announce their names. The world should assume responsibility with us because we should not be the only side to assume responsibility toward this issue.

[Majid] The detainees you are holding in connection with the kidnapping, are they from a specific area in southern Lebanon or from several areas?

[Da'ud] From several areas.

[Majid] Do you believe the reports of U.S. fleets sailing to the Mediterranean and being on alert after the kidnapping in southern Lebanon are within the framework of a new scenario prepared for the Lebanese areas?

[Da'ud] We heard these reports just as you did with no additional information. However, we stress that any U.S. operation of any kind will be extremely stupid.

[Majid] How true are reports on Imam Musa al-Sadr? Do you really believe he will soon return, as Ayatollah Rohani announced in Paris?

[Da'ud] We had this information about Imam Musa al-Sadr 3 months ago.

[Majid] This means you had knowledge of this issue before Rohani. Why didn't you announce it?

[Da'ud] Yes, we had knowledge of this issue. However, it has been announced several times that Imam Musa al-Sadr will return soon, but he did not return and this is what we feared. The issue of Imam al-Sadr is a big issue, especially since he is the most important person ever taken hostage. Moreover, this issue is not his own issue, it is the issue of humanity as a whole.

[Majid] Thus, you confirm Ayatollah Rohani's information?

[Da'ud] We do not confirm his information, but we say that he is certain of his information and he confirms it.

[Majid] If these reports come true and Al-Sadr returns to Lebanon, then do you believe this will be an important development in the Lebanese crisis?

[Da'ud] We are certain the absence of Imam al-Sadr was not without purpose. His absence might have been connected with the implementation of a certain conspiracy. It might have also been revealed that this conspiracy has not succeeded and that this could have necessitated his return.

[Majid] If this came true, then would you be happy with Imam al-Sadr's return?

[Da'ud] We hope so because this will settle several problems. In addition, it will be a sign of the restoration of existence among the Lebanese.

Amal Issues Statement

NC231235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Amal Movement Information Bureau in the south has declared that it has condemned the kidnapping of Higgins because he works for the UN forces and because his kidnapping is primarily directed against the south and its future.

This came in a statement issued at the end of the Bureau's meeting yesterday under 'Abd al-Majid Salih, the official in charge of the Movement's Information Department. The Bureau conducted a review of the various developments in the south.

Having pointed out that the repeated Israeli attacks on the southern villages seek to empty these villages of their inhabitants, the statement made a distinction between America, the peoples' enemy and staunch supporter of Israel, and the innocent American citizen. The statement added: We know well that Israel is killing us with American weapons and is carrying out raids with American aircraft, but we do not condone the kidnapping of an innocent citizen just because he is an American. This comes from our desire to uphold the image of the

resistance fighter in the south. Otherwise, the people would be unable to distinguish between the resistance fighter and the terrorist and between heroic operations and kidnappings.

The statement called on our partners in destiny and resistance to become aware of the dangers threatening the south and its inhabitants and to fend off the sedition and its vicious objectives, which our enemies are trying with all their power to attain.

Amal Detains Two Kidnappers

TA231313 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The Shi'ite organization Amal has detained two of the kidnappers of U.S. Colonel Higgins. The Amal spokesman in Tyre said that his organization knows the identity of the leader of the kidnappers, but the man has not yet been caught.

Qabalan Urges 'Wisdom'

NC231421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1406 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] After a meeting with a number of religious ulema in the south, Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan urged wisdom in dealing with the abduction of the U.S. officer, William Richard Higgins, to maintain the unity of ranks in confronting the Zionist enemy.

Mufti Qalaban asked those concerned to put an end to the activities of individuals who exceeded their bounds.

Iran Moves To Calm Amal-Hizballah Conflict

NC222020 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Fundamentalist Shi'ite scholars have denounced the search campaign which the Amal Movement is carrying out in the south, describing the resulting harassments as unacceptable.

The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reports that senior Iranian Embassy officials have advised Hizballah leaders to avoid a confrontation with the Amal Movement at present. It has been noted that some senior Iranian Embassy officials had suggested that a reconciliation and coordination meeting be held between Hizballah and Amal leaders at a place to be agreed upon, most likely the embassy premises in Beirut. However, the escalation of hostile exchanges between them aborted the Iranian proposal.

'High' Tension Continues

NC222113 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] It was reported tonight that tension is high between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the southern suburb of Beirut. Hizballah official Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah left the suburb for the south to hold consultations in a bid to ease the tension. Hizballah has received information that Amal is insisting on continuing its raids and arrests in the south in an effort to free the kidnapped U.S. officer Higgins.

UNRWA To Withdraw Employees From W. Beirut

NC221455 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] UNRWA Spokesman Niall Kiely has declared that after the abduction of the two UNRWA officials on 5 February, the agency has decided to withdraw eight other officials from Lebanon permanently and to transfer the remaining four to East Beirut. Kiely said that UNRWA Director Per Olof Hallquist will remain in Lebanon and will operate from the agency's office in East Beirut. Reconstruction work on the Beirut camps will be shelved as a result of the withdrawal, he stated.

Ivory Coast Beirut Embassy To Remain Open

NC221708 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Ivory Coast Embassy has rescinded its decision to close its embassy in Beirut.

Embassy Decision Confirmed

NC222002 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] An official source in Abidjan has confirmed that the Ivory Coast, contrary to what was announced earlier, does not intend to close its embassy in Beirut and will not take any immediate measures in the wake of the recent attacks on several of its nationals. The Ivory Coast ambassador in Beirut has told AFP that his government decided not to close its embassy after receiving guarantees from the Lebanese Government.

Friday Prayers Discuss Palestinian Issues

LD201328 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 20 IRNA—Muslim people of Lebanon participated in Friday prayer congregations in various parts of Lebanon Friday where Friday prayer leaders informed them of the latest political issues.

Friday prayer leader of Imam Reza (AS) Mosque, Al-'Allaham Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah back home from Tehran where he participated in the Conference on the Islamic Thought, said that the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the solidarity of Islamic ummah with the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, has shaken the world.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah said that while all world and Arab policy makers try to destroy the Palestinian issue and even the Arab leaders in Amman summit shamefully discuss it as an unimportant issue of the Muslim Palestinians proved that when a nation is determined to

liberate itself, its enemy becomes frightened and that struggle will finally lead to their victory over the arrogant powers. [sentence as received]

The prominent Lebanese theologian said that the world arrogance endeavors to dominate the region by pressuring Lebanese and Palestinian nations as it has spread its rule over other Arab states and using the same measures.

The U.S. which has kept silent before the massacre of unarmed Palestinians calls the immigration plan of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestine as defending human rights, he said.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah lauded the struggle of the Islamic resistance and said that there is no difference between Zionist forces and forces of Antoine Lahd and those who count on the support of the Zionist regime should know that the bases of Zionist forces and those of their mercenaries are vulnerable wherever they might be and Muslim Lebanese forces will not hesitate to inflict blows on the occupiers.

Friday prayer leader of Qods Mosque in Nahr al-Barid camp, north of Tripoli, Shaykh Ibrahim Ghanim said that the so-called international peace conference on Middle East mainly supported by Zionists is nothing but a political trick to annihilate the Palestinian nation and consolidate the Zionist regime.

Shaykh Ghanim stressed that Muslim Palestinians will not trust any political solution for the Palestine issue, adding that the just rights of the Palestinians will destroy the Zionist regime.

Friday prayer leader of Tawbah Mosque, Tripoli, Shaykh Badr Shandar said that the wounds on the heart of the Palestinian nation over the past years by those who claim to be backing Palestine have been more painful than the crimes of Zionists against the Palestinians, a clear example of which is the Palestinians' living conditions in the refugee camps and their homelessness.

The Lebanese alim said that it is the Islamic ummah of Iran who has inflicted the most fatal blow on the world arrogance and on the so-called U.S. armada in the Persian Gulf.

The Islamic ummah of Iran by spreading the spirit of jihad to the occupied Palestine has become the main supporter of the Islamic ummah and is going to uproot Zionism and imperialism in the region, said the Lebanese scholar.

Meantime, southern Lebanese ulema in their Friday prayer sermons condemned the arrest of Lebanese Muslims by Amal forces in their search for a U.S. colonel recently kidnapped in Lebanon and described it as a "great service to the U.S." Pointing to the massacre of Palestinians by Zionist forces Friday prayer leader of Jibshit, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim Abil [name as received], asked why those who impose such pressures on combatant people of southern Lebanon to find a U.S. citizen forget the arrest of tens of Lebanese Muslims and their detention in Zionist prisons.

Further on Fadlallah Sermon

LD192019 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Feb 88

[Text] Al-'Allamah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, in today's Friday prayers sermons in the Imam Reza Mosque, may God's peace be upon him, in the southern district of Beirut, praised the Islamic anti-Zionist uprising in occupied Palestine. Addressing the risen people of Palestine, he said: Maintain your confrontation with Israel and (?along this path) do not ever retreat as a response to what others, and arrogance, want. He added: If you are to raise your hopes with the promises of the United States, Europe, and the Arabs, you will lose whatever you have gained.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah returned recently from Tehran to Beirut, having participated in the cermonies marking the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He added: Imam Khomeyni is carefully observing the situation in Palestine and he knows very well that (?everyone) is intent on taming the Islamic Revolution so that they may push it in the (?directions) that international policies are taking. The Friday prayers leader continued: Despite the futile efforts of the Arabs in the Amman conference to make the people of Palestine compromise, we can now see how the Palestinian Muslim women, children, and men have harassed empty-handedly the enemy's soldiers, who are armed to the teeth.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah in conclusion referred to the point that arrogance is struggling to impose its own demands on the Muslims of Lebanon and those of Palestine, and said: The United States' aim in dispatching its representatives to the Middle East region is to (?prolong) the crisis in the region and to exploit the situation all the more. [passage indistinct]

Fadlallah Urges 'Rejection' of U.S. Ideas

NC211825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Hizballah, has urged the rejection of the ideas U.S. Secretary of State Shultz is carrying. He also called for intensifying the operations in Jabal 'Amil to create a problem for Israel.

Al-Jumayyil Brushes Aside Murder Attempt

PM191423 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Ghassan Shirbil report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews President al-Jumayyil: List of Assassination Attempts Against Me Is Long; I Am Exposed to Danger Like Any Other Lebanese"]

[Excerpts] Larnaca, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a few hours before he escaped an assassination attempt, Lebanese

President Amin al-Jumayyil said: Danger is not something strange; it is part of the daily life in Lebanon and we are familiar with it. The president, like any other Lebanese living in such a powder keg, is exposed to it. The important thing is for this long tragedy to end and for Lebanon to restore its unity, sovereignty, and freedom.

In the evening of the day before yesterday at a Larnaca hotel, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed the Lebanese president after an explosive charge was found on the plane which was going to fly him from Cyprus to Sanaa and then on to Khartoum. The striking fact was that there were no exceptional security measures, either inside the hotel or at its entrance. President al-Jumayyil was sitting in the main hall without noticeable security measures. He appeared so calm and smiling that anyone talking to him would feel that what had happened was expected and that assassination attempts have now lost their impact because they are so frequent.

Asked to comment on the incident, Al-Jumayyil said: I thank God. However, this is not my first experience with danger, because the current situation in Lebanon exposes the presidency to daily dangers. All I hope for is an end to the crisis which Lebanon has been going through for 15 years.

Al-Jumayyil refused to go into details or comment on predictions and assessments. But he replied to a question about the number of attempts aimed at him: It is a long list; I can no longer remember exactly how many. [passage omitted]

On his visit to Sanaa, Al-Jumayyil said that the YAR plays a growing role and exerts major efforts for the sake of Arab solidarity, and that his talks will deal with the situation in Lebanon, bilateral relations, and issues raised in the region.

Regarding his visit to Sudan, he said that he had received frequent invitations from Sudanese officials and that Lebanon has always been interested in strengthening relations with its Arab brothers. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Calls Arab Solidarity 'Only' Solution

NC211340 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpts] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has affirmed that all solutions to compromise will reach an impasse, whether or not Shultz or anyone else comes to the area. During a meeting with delegations participating in a symposium on the defense of the Arab intellectual, he said: Arab solidarity is the only way to a solution. A noble person will remain noble in the Arab world. Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir is being brought to trial, and the death sentence is being sought. This gives us great hope and encouragement to continue our struggle. [passage omitted]

'Ummar al-Hamidi [chairman of the Higher Council for Arab Culture] has said that Junblatt and a number of leaders have been invited to a conference in Tripoli to discuss ways of solving problems facing the Arab liberation movement, particularly the Iraq-Iran war. He said: Bloodshed must stop in the east and west of the Arab homeland, particularly in the Sahara war.

Junblatt responded: We have not forgotten the joint Syrian-Libyan effort in bringing down the 17 May agreement and in supporting the Lebanese nationalists in confronting Israel and its agents, particularly the Phalangists and the Lebanese Army. It was a huge financial and moral effort. The contribution of the Lebanese nationalists in Libya is just a small part of their contribution to the general pan-Arab battle. Junblatt added: I hope that through this interaction all borders will be opened, and all rifles as well as nationalist and unionist intellectual resources will be united against imperialism, the enemy of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Views Decisionmaking, Election

NC211922 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has emphasized that Lebanon's destiny can neither be decided by the occupiers nor defined by a presidential election. He said: We are eager to play a major role in this election and will not allow foreigners to play any role in it.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Dayr al-Ahmar martyrs, Dr Ja'ja' stated: There is talk about decisionmaking capitals, but Beirut alone is the capital of Lebanese decisionmaking. We refuse to have the election contrived and the president designated abroad. He said:

[Begin recording] Lebanon's destiny can neither be decided by the occupiers nor defined by a presidential election. Occupiers of various kinds have come and gone, but Lebanon remains. Do not fear for Lebanon. It existed before the presidential election and it will still exist after it. The date of the election—23 September—is being described as a fateful watershed or a historical turning point. The fact is, it is a constitutional deadline like any other. Things will be as we, the Lebanese, want them to be and not as others would wish. They talk about decisionmaking capitals, but Beirut alone is the capital of Lebanese decisionmaking. We refuse to have the election contrived and the president designated abroad. The time of trusteeship and trustees has gone for good.

We are tired of the endless interference. Why don't we resort to a direct dialogue among ourselves, as Lebanese? Why don't we turn the presidential election into an oppotunity for dialogue among the Lebanese, without mediators or mediations?

Our hands are extended for a dialogue. We say in all honesty that the only program we have for ourselves and for any presidential candidate, as well as for our partners in the homeland, is liberation—the liberation of the land and of the will—and the rejection of the domination of occupation. Yes to liberation and unification, but no to a president who submits himself for approval abroad; yes to a president who realizes that he cannot be a unification president unless he is a liberation president. [applause] [end recording]

Speaker Al-Husayni Returns From Damascus Talks
NC211732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, returned to Beirut this afternoon following a private visit to the Syrian capital. During his visit he held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and senior Syrian officials on the security and political situations in Lebanon and efforts by fraternal Syria to solve the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Presidential Envoy Salim Leaves for FRG
NC221734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Dr Elie Salim, presidential adviser and former foreign minister, left Beirut for the FRG today. He will discuss political and regional developments with officials there. [passage omitted]

LCP on Elections, Indictment of 'Abd al-Nasir
NC201250 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] has called for early presidential elections to be held on the basis of a program of political and economic reforms. The LCP Political Bureau issued a statement saying that such reforms should be decided through national dialogue among those who believe in Lebanon's independence, unity, and democracy, and who want to see the country liberated from Israeli occupation and disentangled from its economic crisis. [passage omitted]

The LCP Political Bureau vehemently condemned the Egyptian regime's demand for the death penalty for Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his fellow Egyptian strugglers on charges of fighting the Israelis and the imperialists on the Arab soil of Egypt.

Conference Denounces 'Abd al-Nasir Sentence
NC201837 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Representatives of the nationalist parties and Palestinian organizations released a statement today denouncing the Egyptian regime's practices and the Egyptian Public Prosecutor's demand for a death sentence for struggler Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir and his comrades.

At a meeting at the headquarters of the Popular Nasirite Organization in Sidon, the conferees stressed that the accusation against Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir is a cheap attempt by the Egyptian regime to appease the Americans and Zionists. They said this step is the ugliest form of treason, and coincides with the Israeli enemy's barbaric repression of the Palestinian people. This step is also aimed at repressing the Egyptian people's demonstrations and actions in solidarity with the revolution in the occupied territories, particularly after all previous attempts by the Egyptian regime to circumvent the uprising failed.

PSP Discusses Kidnappings, 'Abd al-Nasir
NC222114 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau after a meeting chaired by PSP leader Walid Junblatt in B'aqlin on 22 February]

[Excerpts] 1. The Political Bureau heard a detailed report on the visit to Damascus of a PSP delegation led by Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, deputy leader of the party. Akram Shuhayyib and Khalil Ahmad Khalifah were members of the delegation, which met with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Party. The Political Bureau noted the cordial atmosphere which characterized the talks. The PSP and Ba'th Party officials agree on the necessity to maintain the cohesion of Arab ranks in the face of the designs against Lebanon and the Arabs. [passage omitted]

2. The Political Bureau took note of certain untoward events which have taken place in Lebanon and in areas controlled by Lebanese nationalists, such as the renewed abductions of foreigners. The Bureau believes that the confusion created by such acts and reactions to them are not to the benefit of the nationalist struggle. The Political Bureau reiterated the need for the nationalist areas to maintain unity of direction and purpose. The importance of a unified program for action cannot be overestimated in view of the popular steadfastness needed to cope with the coming stage and the threats which it may bring with it to the future of Lebanon and its nationalists. [passage omitted]

3. The Political Bureau reviewed the escalating uprising of our heroic kinfolk in the occupied territories. It noted the increased U.S. endeavors and intensive contacts which are being carried out by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, in an attempt to scuttle this marvelous surge of resistance to the occupation and to contain the uprising by means of varied slogans and initiatives. The toughness in resisting the occupation which marks the uprising is in itself a plea for our support. We must pay tribute to this, not least because it is our national duty. [passage omitted]

4. The Political Bureau expressed its solidarity with the national struggle of the striving Egyptian people and with the role played in that struggle by Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir. The Bureau stressed its firm backing for the Egyptian nationalist forces in their struggle to restore Egypt to its place in the pan-Arab front and in the confrontation with Zionism and imperialism. [passage omitted]

The PSP condemns the accusations leveled against Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir by the Egyptian regime. These accusations are nothing but a medal of honor bestowed on a struggler who has shown himself to be the true son of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. [passage omitted]

Fundamentalists Claim Attack Killed 8 Israelis

NC200656 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The fundamentalists have issued a statement in Beirut saying that one of their armed groups attacked an Israeli patrol on the Al-Suwayda' road, south of the Al-Nabatiyah area, yesterday morning. The statement adds that eight Israeli soldiers were killed in the attack.

South Lebanese Army Repulses Dallafah Attack

NC200637 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] repulsed an infiltration attempt against one of its positions in the Dallafah area. Personnel manning the position repulsed the attackers after a battle in which all types of weapons were used. The losses in the ranks of the attackers are not yet known as the SLA is continuing its search operations in the area.

In separate developments, SLA positions in Al-Shumariyah and Bayt Yahun were attacked by machinegun fire and rockets last night. The Al-Shumariyah position came under concentrated shelling from 60-mm mortars, while the Bayt Yahun position came under intensive machinegun fire at two different times, the first directed from Bra'shit and the second from the Al-Qasr area. The SLA returned the fire and silenced the sources of firing. There were no casualties in the SLA ranks.

3 'Saboteurs' Reported Killed

NC201141 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army repulsed an attack launched by some saboteurs against an SLA post in the Dallafah area at dawn today. The SLA consequently mounted a large-scale search at the scene of the attack, finding the bodies of three saboteurs. The corpses are still lying on the battleground.

Further SLA Combat Reports

NC210711 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] South Lebanese Army positions extending from the Al-Naqurah area to Bint Jubayl, Marj 'Uyun, Hasbayya, and Jazzin were the targets of infiltration attempts and artillery shelling early today. The SLA repulsed all the attempts and shelled intensively all areas involved in hitting its positions.

Here are the details: At around 0200 today SLA positions in Jabal Safi, Tumat Niha, Al-Rummanah, Buslayya, and Al-Rimat came under artillery shelling and attempts to advance, which were repulsed. At the same time, SLA positions in Al-Nabi Tahir, Kafr Rumman, 'Arab Salim, and Al-Dallafah were also shelled, and attempts were made to advance toward them. These were foiled. In the Bint Jubayl area, the SLA positions in Shuqayf al-Naml, Jabal Hamid, and Bayt Yahun came under artillery shelling. The saboteurs labeled the shelling and failed attempts as solidarity with the uprising in the occupied territories.

The SLA returned the fire by shelling Jba', Kafr Fila, Kafr Matta, Mlikh, Al-Luwayzah, the ridges of Al-Nabatiyah and Arnun, Mashgharah, 'Ayn al-Tinah, the Al-Qir'awn vicinity, Suhmur, and Yuhmur. The saboteurs have artillery emplacements in these areas and within residential areas. These took part in shelling the SLA positions. There were no casualties in the SLA ranks, and the losses suffered by the saboteurs are not known.

Israeli Forces, SLA Arrest 3 Civilians

NC211822 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Security sources have stated that the Israeli army and South Lebanese Army [SLA] advanced north of the security zone today and arrested three civilians. According to these sources, 40 soldiers entered the village of Buyut al-Sayyid, 1 km from the security zone, and arrested three citizens. The operation was carried out only a few hours after Katyushas had fallen on a roadblock jointly manned by the Israeli army and the SLA in Ra's al-Bayyadah, the northern entrance to the security zone.

The SLA has stated that 13 of its positions were attacked or shelled and that its artillery retaliated by bombarding villages north of the security zone, including some villages in western Al-Biqa'.

It has been reported that shells fell on positions held by the Nepalese UNIFIL contingent during the exchange of artillery fire between the SLA and fundamentalist organizations. UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel said that today's confrontation between the fundamentalists and the SLA is regarded as the fiercest and longest between the two sides thus far.

Israeli Gunboats Fire at Al-Rashidiyah Camp

NC222023 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli gunboats cruising off the southern coast have opened fire on the Al-Rashidiyah camp.

Warplanes Fly Over South

NC222057 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over several areas in the south tonight, particularly north of the border strip, where they dropped flares.

1 Killed, 3 Wounded in Hospital Explosion

NC230944 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0846 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Excerpts] First Lieutenant 'Isam Rahmi was killed, while his brother Sergeant Hani Rahmi, his father Jirjis, his cousin Qizhaya, and Lina Hawwa were wounded in an explosion on the second floor of Al-Hayik Hospital at 0900 today. The second floor of the hospital is assigned to military patients. [passage omitted]

According to security sources, the explosion was caused by an antiaircraft shell fired in the direction of the hospital. The shell hit the reception room on the second floor, while another shell hit the outside of the building.

According to the same sources, Rahmi is a first lieutenant in the Army. He was visiting his sister, who was undergoing surgery.

Briefs

Airport Director Appointed

Sami Sa'd, director of the Civil Aviation Safety Department, today took over the position of director of Beirut International Airport. Walid Junblatt, minister of public works, transport, and tourism, has signed a ministerial document authorizing his appointment. [Text] [*(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Feb 88 NC*]

Vice President Receives Lebanon's Al-Husayni
JN211459 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] At 1030 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

The talks dealt with the situation and developments in the Lebanese arena and the need to bring about a national accord and bolster resistance to the Israeli enemy.

The vice president reiterated to Al-Husayni Syria's eagerness to end the Lebanese crisis and bring about a national accord.

Paper Says U.S. 'Fed Up' With Arab Hopes
JN221248 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0545 GMT 22 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In discussing Shultz' tour, TISHRIN says: Washington actually feels that the Palestinian uprsing has prompted all parties to expose their hands and has brought everything out into the open.

The Israelis have used all means of coercion, terrorism, and repression at their disposal. However, they did not manage to extinguish the fire.

The Americans are tired and fed up with the too many hopes pinned on them by the Arabs regarding settlements and separate deals to change Washington's biased policy, hoping to make it possible to propagate the U.S. solution and make it acceptable.

Shultz was forced to set matters straight and inform the Arabs wagering on the U.S. role and credibility to stop their flowery dreams. We suppose those Arabs realize the importance of giving up their bad habit of mixing matters, because the United States has fully understood the message of the uprising and its regional and international effects.

TISHRIN adds: Shultz moved quickly and did not wait until he arrived in Moscow to present what he is taking to the negotiating table. This U.S. haste is a sign of weakness rather than strength.

Washington is neither able to defend the Israeli stand nor willing to tell the truth and adopt a correct stand on what is going on in occupied Palestine.

In addition, Shultz will face a firm stand inside the occupied territories. His endeavor to contain the uprising, market the U.S. solution, and find new pillars for U.S. hegemony over the region will fail.

Afghanistan

Resistance Groups Form Interim Government

BK231112 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 23 (AFP)—The Afghan Resistance Tuesday announced the formation of an interim government only a week before the resumption of crucial Geneva talks on a Soviet troop withdrawal.

The resistance government "will replace the government in Kabul before the signing of the Geneva accord," a communique issued by the Peshawar-based seven-party resistance said.

The transitional government would have a 28-member cabinet, including 14 mujahidin, seven refugees and seven "Muslims presently serving in Kabul," the communique added.

The communique said that the country would be renamed the "Islamic State of Afghanistan" where the Koran and Sunnah (the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad) will be "supreme."

"This government will replace the government in Kabul before the signing of the Geneva accord," the communique said.

U.N.-mediated talks in Geneva involving Pakistan and Afghanistan, but not the mujahidin, are scheduled to resume on March 2. The talks have been going on for six years.

Health Official Accepts Mujahidin Amnesty Offer

BK221711 Hong Kong AFP in English 1707 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 22 (AFP)—The chief public health official in Kabul has defected to the mujahidin resistance after it offered an amnesty, the rebel-run AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Monday. Muhammad Nasir, 46, left the Afghan capital February 8 and went to mujahidin headquarters in the northwest Pakistani town of Peshawar, AIP said.

Mr. Nasir was quoted by AIP as saying he was in constant contact with the mujahidin throughout his career, but his defection was prompted by a recent call to Afghan Muslims working for the Kabul government to abandon the regime.

He predicted that the amnesty offer by the mujahidin would result in numerous defections, even among those officials who used to call themselves communists, AIP said.

He encouraged his fellow Afghans to take up the offer, AIP said.

Mr. Nasir was quoted as saying that the number of health centres operating in Afghanistan had dropped from 340 before the communist coup in 1979 to 80 now.

He said the number in Kabul Province, which has the highest provincial population, had fallen from 24 to 13, adding that "some of these exist in name only".

Mr. Nasir blamed the situation on an acute shortage of medical supplies and lack of experienced personnel, AIP said, adding: "the only medicines we can get are what the Soviets have left over and it's all from the Eastern Bloc, some of it unusable."

Arabs Join 'Radical' Muslim Mujahidin Groups

BK210926 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 21 Feb 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 21 (AFP)—Several hundred nationals of Arab states have joined the Muslim mujahidin in their jihad or holy war against Soviet troops defending the Kabul regime, a number of sources said here.

Most of these Muslim fighters, who have come from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, Morocco and Palestine, are aged between 20 and 30, and more than half of them have links with extremist Islamic organisations, diplomats and specialists on Arab affairs said here.

The embassies of moderate Arab countries here are keeping an eye on their nationals, especially those suspected of belonging to extremist movements.

An Arab diplomat said that an eventual resolution of the Afghan conflict would likely see these hardened fighters return to their countries of origin.

They usually stay with mujahidin groups in Afghanistan or Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan for an average of two years, undergoing intensive military training in guerrilla warfare at Afghan resistance camps.

Almost all the jihad candidates join radical parties such as the Islamic fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar or the Ettehad-e Eslami headed by 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayaf or factions of the Wahhabi sect—radical Saudi-backed Muslims—in northern Afghanistan, sources said.

"Some idealists leave one fine day to wage jihad against the communist kafirs (non-believers) for personal reasons but more than half are sent by extremist Muslim groups in their country," a reliable source said in Peshawar.

"Often those who arrive individually want to do something for Islam in pursuit of their Koranic studies," the source added.

Today Muslims are fighting holy wars against the Israelis and the Soviet and Afghan troops in Afghanistan, a young Algerian said in Peshawar recently.

The Arab jihad is fought discreetly, without coverage in the Pakistani press or through rebel leaders. But the Hezb-e Eslami group sporadically issues press statements paying tribute to "Arab martyrs" who died in combat against Soviet and Afghan troops, while the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR regularly denounces the "subversive activities" of the "extremists from reactionary Arab countries."

"The Egyptians, the Sudanese and the Saudis are the most numerous," one specialist said.

"The Egyptians are welcome as they have already completed their military service, some... are former officers, others are doctors, perhaps half are fanatics backed by the Muslim Brotherhood (extremist group)."

"Several dozen extremists have already been listed as fundamentalists in their countries," the specialist in Arab affairs added.

Some 150 Arabs live in Peshawar—the Pakistani border town where the seven-party Afghan rebel alliance is based—working in mujahidin organisations.

The majority of those who are in Afghanistan fight, but some teach the Koran, preach jihad or are social workers.

Arab doctors often work in Saudi-funded hospitals in the countryside.

"They (the Arabs) bring money but only help the Muslim valleys" said a member of a humanitarian organisation, who spent two years in Afghanistan. But the Arabs are not the only Muslims participating in the jihad in Afghanistan—several coloured Americans, Algerian-born French, Turks and French converts to Islam have also joined the Afghan rebel cause.

Foreign Minister Recounts Tour of Arab Nations

LD201927 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil by unidentified journalist on his recent tour of Arab countries on 20 February in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, who led a delegation on friendly visits to a number of Arab countries, including Kuwait, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Kingdom of Jordan, returned home this afternoon.

At Kabul Airport he was welcomed by Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal and border affairs; deputy ministers; the head of the Protocol Department of the Foreign Ministry; His Excellency Inder Pal, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of India; and (Muhammad Khalifa), charge d'affaires at the embassy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. The foreign minister granted an interview to a radio and television reporter about the [word indistinct] of his visits. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Reporter] Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, as our compatriots know you have returned to Kabul today after a visit to the Gulf states and North Africa. Would you please assess the results of your visit for our compatriots?

[Wakil] As our esteemed compatriots know, we have visited the countries of Kuwait, Syria, Libya, and the Kingdom of Jordan Of course this was the first visit by an Afghan delegation at this level in the 10 years since the April Revolution. It was a really useful and valuable visit. [passage indistinct]

What was very important in this visit was that these countries warmly welcomed and profoundly supported the (?process) of national reconciliation and the plans and proposals by the Republic of Afghanistan, in particular the recent statement by the Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, which were made a while ago concerning a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

We can say that this visit of ours has a good [word indistinct] and a good start [words indistinct] of these countries were in particular in Kuwait and Jordan. As you know, a number of hostile countries and a number of countries who for a long time have waged an undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan have been claiming that Afghanistan has confronted them with its restricted political relations [as heard], while in practice we and our compatriots have seen today that these countries that we have visited, all these four countries, are Islamic countries and they are members of the Nonaligned Movement who follow the policy of nonalignment in the region, in the Middle East and North Africa.

This itself shows our solidarity with them and their interest in improving the situation and political events in Afghanistan—interest that they have shown in their talks and discussions with us. I can specifically say to you that this is the exact interst which is advanced today by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan regarding the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan, and regarding the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation.

We not only have had developments and good results in this respect but we have also achieved progress and good results concerning the consolidation and broadening of bilateral relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the above countries in the cultural, educational, economic, and commercial areas and in the religious field. All of these can be a good start in the future so that the relevant organs can even further (?rely) on them for broadening and consolidating their relations.

The most interesting point which is very seriously supported and welcomed by all the countries of the Gulf and Middle East is the all-round and constant support of the Republic of Afghanistan for the Palestinian cause.

As you and the esteemed compatriots know, recently the broad and very significant uprising—the first since almost 1967 or even the creation of Israel and the Zionists—and in this public manner, the Palestinian fighters have resorted to demonstrations, strikes, and political activities from city to city and village to village. This has caused unparalleled fervor and enthusiasm in the Arab world. As Afghanistan has always immensely supported the cause of the Palestinian people, all those countries expressed satisfaction during the talks for the constant and all-round support given by the Republic of Afghanistan.

I hope the audience and esteemed compatriots have followed the news and the results of our talks and meetings. I want to mention that as our people have a serious interest in consolidating and establishing peace in their countries and the world too, including the Gulf countries, and the countries in the Middle East and North Africa. I can say that they have the same interest based on fraternity, Islamic spirit, and Asian spirit to the extent which it exists, and the Nonaligned Movement's countries' spirit. Their peace-loving spirit is very strong and they wish and expect a lasting and permaent peace in our country as soon as possible, as we do. They support our plans to contribute to the establishment of peace and are ready to defend the stand that we have taken in the international arena. Thank you.

[Reporter] Esteemed 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, I thank you for your comprehensive comments.

[Wakil] Thank you.

Pakistan's Awami Party Hails PDPA Successes

LD200712 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 19, BAKHTAR—"We, on behalf of Awami National Party, all national and democratic forces of Pakistan and the masses of Pakistan wholeheartedly congratulate the party, state and the people of Afghanistan for the successful realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and on the occasion of the statement of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA CC, and express our solidarity and unanimous views with you," reads the message of the Central Committee of Awami National Party of Pakistan sent to the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan on Najibullah's statement.

Our people, recalls the message, have always believed in the peaceful objectives pursued by the Soviet Union and the Afghan leadership and have never come under the influence of Western propaganda and the reaction of Pakistan and thus they have always reiterated that the solution of this problem through talks and peaceful means is at the benefit of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The statement of Najibullah once again reaffirmed the peaceful and constructive objectives of the Afghan leadership, the message indicates.

The peace-loving people of Pakistan who are not kept aloof from the effects of the on-going war in Afghanistan felt a sense of tranquillity and are awaiting for the establishment of peace and security. Likewise, certain circles with a common sense within the government of Pakistan and the moderate Afghan opposition parties have hailed the developments which have come about as a result of these statements. On the contrary, the bellicose extremist forces and Zia's regime and the Afghan extremist organisations have become embarrassed due to these statements, the message points out.

The people of the world know it very well that out of the four basic documents on Geneva talks three were almost finalised and the fourth one which is on the timeframe of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan has also been prepared exactly in conformity with the wishes of the Pakistani and [word indistinct] opposition and it merely requires to be signed in Geneva, reads the message.

These statements have brought to nought all the claims and pretexts of the Pakistani ruling circles and the Afghan opposition and it merely requires to be signed in Geneva, reads the message.

These statements have brought to nought all the claims and pretexts of the Pakistani ruling circles and the Afghan opposition extremists.

But later on, they in Pakistan sought new pretexts and now pledge that they will not sign the Geneva documents, until a type of government according to their will is established in Afghanistan. The documents were completed under the UN auspices and a joint agenda and has nothing in common with the internal aspects of Afghan problem. Pakistan [words indistinct] had admitted more than once that it had no intention to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and Afghan people themselves solve their problems, the message notes.

The message asks that can Pakistan allow the government of Afghanistan to say which type of government be formed in Pakistan. If not, Pakistan itself has no right to say the same to its neighbour.

As far as a legal or illegal, a representative and nonrepresentative government is concerned, it is a fact that the people and all real political parties in Pakistan are not satisfied with the present Pakistani Government and are not considering it legal, the message adds.

Herein lies the gist of the matter that Zia's regime is not willing that the Soviet military contingents to return home from Afghanistan.

The people and national democratic forces in Pakistan have always been in the opinion that the present war against Afghanistan and feel it in their daily life. They will not allow that their Afghan brothers to suffer more.

We are in the conviction that common sense inevitably will succeed and the peaceful aspirations of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan will be realised.

Western Media 'Misinterpret' Coalition's Policy

LD210649 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 20, BAKHTAR—Today's dailies have published the reflections of the people on the significance of the historical statements of Najibullah on the situation around Afghanistan. Most of the mass media of the West has also deliberated on this historical statement and each has made inferences of its own on the statements.

Some in the Western mass media have misinterpreted the coalition system of administration which is being carried out by the Afghan leadership and has come to fruition at the district, subdistrict, and provincial levels. They are depicting the coalition system of administration as an interim state.

In this manner, the daily ANIS states in an article that the Afghan people's enemies are trying to distort the term coalition.

The Afghan leadership has proposed a coalition administration to provide for the participation of all patriotic elements in the Afghan administration in an aim to secure peace.

We are expecting all the parties involved to adopt a positive stand and to understand the significance of the flexibility shown by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, the daily notes.

The daily HEYWAD publishes the views of some countrymen on the statements of the Afghan and Soviet leaders. One of the viewers, Khadem Husayn Big, chairman of the central council of the Hazara nationality, on behalf of the council and people of the Hazara nationality, has expressed his support for Afghan President Najibullah's statements, and for Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU CC.

The significance of these statements lies in that these statements rule out all the national dissentions, differences, fratricide and ambitiousness, points out Khadem Husayn.

Likewise, the statement of both leaders on the principled, realistic stand of the two countries towards the settlement of issues around Afghanistan were hailed by the working people at grand functions and rallies in the capital and provinces. At these meetings, the dailies indicate, the speakers explained the significance of the statements and described them as indicative of flexibility and goodwill of the Republic of Afghansitan in achieving durable peace in the country.

Leftist Alliance Statement Supports Government

LD200700 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 19, BAKHTAR—The Leftist Democratic Alliance holds a clear and patriotic stand vis-a-vis the solution of the existing issues inside and around Afghanistan, reads a document which was approved by the coordinating council of the Leftist Democratic Parties of Afghanistan on the statements of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC, regarding Afghanistan at its February 18 session.

Our parties, the document adds, support the solution of the existing issues through political and peaceful means and make their contribution in this direction. The proposed way of solution may be acceptable and practicable if:

—It guarantees putting an end to any interventions from outside and its nonresumption.

—It guarantees the determination of the destiny of the people of Afghanistan involving the solution of the proposed human issues including the cessation of war and bloodshed, the return of refugees and the securing of a safe and noble life for all the individuals of the society disregarding to what wing or political military front they may belong to.

—It should also provide for the conditions for the return of the Soviet military forces from Afghanistan.

The statements of Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah, which constitute a new responsible and courageous step in this direction, are indicative of the existing facts in the country and around it and reflect the honesty and political goodwill of the leadership of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan for the solution of the current problems in the country and the region, reads the document.

The statements of Mikhail Gorbachev and Najibullah are containing specific proposals as for the setting of a timeframe for the return of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. The statement has also defined Afghanistan as an independent, non-aligned and neutral country in good neighbourhood with the Soviet Union.

The Leftist Democratic Alliance as a patriotic alliance is hailing these specific proposals encompassing the peaceful conditions for the future development and international prestige of Afghansitan.

The participants of the session have expressed their profound gratitude for the all-sided internationalist assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan in the course of friendly relations between the two countries that it has not even withheld the shedding of the blood of their sons in the difficult conditions of the country.

The people of Afghanistan, the document goes on to say, hold in high esteem their traditional friendship with the people of the Soviet Union. They will not allow anybody to spoil these historical relations, good neighbourliness and the mutual respect between the two countries.

The coordinating council of the Leftist Democratic Parties has expressed gratitude of the high assessment made by Mikhail Gorbachev of the policy of national reconciliation as a bold step emanating from the new political thinking. It is our duty, the document says, to step up our efforts towards peace, for the cessation of war and fratricide, and for the creation of a favourable atmosphere for securing a peaceful life for the working people of Afghanistan.

We invite, the document goes on to say, all the political forces involved inside and outside the country to direct their efforts with a sense of responsibility and realism for ending the years-long bloody war and not to miss this historical chance. Let the political system of the future be determined by the people themselves without intervention from abroad as it has been reflected in the statements of the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The Leftist Democratic Alliance will use all the possibilities for the realisation of this program.

More Refugees Return, Join Armed Forces

LD200638 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 19, BAKHTAR—Three thousand and three hundred eighty-five persons have returned home individually or with their families from abroad in the past month, says a spokesman of the State Committee for Refugees to a BAKHTAR correspondent.

Out of this, 318 persons were employed in the state institutions. Similarly, eighty persons have voluntarily reported to serve in the armed forces and 287 children and adults have also attended the literacy courses.

Aid Distributed to Returnees

LD210651 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 20, BAKHTAR—The gratis aid goods of the Soviet Union and other friendly countries at a value of over seventeen million afghanis (AFS) have been distributed to the returnees since the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, January 1987, a representative of State Committee for Returnees Affairs said in an interview.

Since the establishment of the committee, the value of state goods provided to the returnees reaches to AFS 25,234,000, the representative said.

To provide further facilities to the returnees, eighteen representations of the committee, nine registration centres, twenty-two frontier reception centres, twenty-three guesthouses, ten peace townships and eight health centres have been established throughout the country, the representative concluded.

India

President's Speech To Joint Parliament Session

BK221631 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1551 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The president, R R Venkataraman, has expressed government's readiness for a dialogue with all those who eschew violence to find a non-violent political solution to the Punjab problem within the framework of the Constitution. Opening the budget session of Parliament on Feb 22, he made it clear that there can and will be no compromise over the nation's integrity and unity. Pointing out that terrorists have lately stepped up their depredations, the president declared that the foremost task is to crush terrorism and isolate secessionists.

Addressing members of two houses in Central Hall of Parliament, Venkataraman also expressed the nation's determination to root out communalism, fundamentalism, and other fissiparous tendencies. He said with a determined and concerted national effort the challenge of terrorism is being met in Punjab and elsewhere. Law-enforcing agencies have mounted a determined campaign against misguided anti-national elements. Terrorists have now to contend with people's refusal to be browbeaten or cowed down. In this context, the president referred to Pakistan and regretted that it continued to assist terrorists and secessionist elements in India. Pakistan also continues its clandestine efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. Is this path of friendship and cooperation, the president asked? He said the Indian Government still believes that reason and good sense will prevail and the Pakistan Government will make a fresh assessment of its policy towards India.

In his address, lasting over forty-five minutes, the president referred to country's achievements in various fields and reiterated the government's commitment to uplift of weaker sections, especially scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minorities.

Venkataraman also referred to century's worst drought faced by country and said our economy has demonstrated its resilience to meet such challenges. He said government is making determined efforts to ensure that foodgrains output reaches 175 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Plan.

About performance of the industrial sector, Venkataraman said it has been commendable. It reflects the success of government policies in stimulating investment and production and promoting technological upgradation.

Referring to the public sector, the president declared that the public sector must and will continue to play a pivotal role in our development strategy of building socialism. He said the infrastructure, which is almost exclusively in this sector, has also performed very well.

The balance of payments position has been managed successfully despite a difficult external situation.

About the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, the president said that it meets all legitimate aspirations of the Tamil minority there while ensuring unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. The agreement also paves way for durable peace and stability in that country. It meets important security concerns of ours and strengthens non-alignment in our region. Venkataraman also referred to the role of the peace keeping force and said our gallant soldiers have done an outstanding job in most difficult circumstances.

On Afghanistan, the president expressed the hope that the forthcoming proximity talks at Geneva will lead to a final settlement. He said India welcomes the announcement about the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan in accordance with stipulated schedule.

About India's relations with the Soviet Union, the president said these have always been warm and friendly. The Delhi Declaration of November 1986 affirmed common commitment op both countries to non-violence and peaceful co-existence.

In his address, the president also touched upon issues like the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian problem, apartheid, the Kampuchean issue, India's relations with China, and the need for a nuclear-free world.

On the home front, Venkataraman also touched upon various measures being taken for welfare of women and youth. On the 20-point programme, the president said that it has inspired new hope in countryside and accounts for thirty percent of the total plan outlay for current year.

Gandhi Opens Asia-Pacific Telecom Meeting

BK230359 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the countries of the Asia-Pacific region to cooperate in their developmental efforts. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said there have been exchanges at the political level, but technical cooperation among the countries of the region is far below. He was opening a week-long Asia and Pacific telecommunications development conference in New Delhi yesterday. Mr Gandhi said development of telecommunications is vital for growth, but it is capital intensive. The need, therefore, is to take a quantum jump in developing communication technologies to come up with developed countries.

Mr Gandhi spoke about the development of telecommunications in India and said our progress has been tremendous. The overall target is to put the entire population to within 5 minutes walking distance from a telephone. Describing the target as ambitious, the prime minister said a number of unique steps are to be taken to build an integrated national network which will link the remote areas with the national mainstream.

The minister for communications, Mr Vasant Sathe, said to meet the challenge of providing basic communication infrastructure to the people, a multilateral and unilateral cooperation is needed.

In his address, the secretary general of the International Communication Union, Mr Butler, underlined the need for a concerted action to achieve the telecommunication objectives in Asia and the Pacific region.

Polish Foreign Minister Arrives 22 Feb

BK220456 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Polish foreign minister, Mr Marian Orzechowski, arrived in New Delhi today on an 8-day visit. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. Talking to newsmen, Mr Orzechowski said that he will discuss with Indian leaders the bilateral matters and possibilities of expanding economic relations between the two countries.

During his stay in the capital, the Polish foreign minister will also call on the vice president, the prime minister, and other Indian leaders.

Meets With Natwar Singh

BK221602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Polish foreign minister, Mr Marian Orzechowski, has said that his country would continue to support the Indian efforts in solving the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. He told the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, in New Delhi this evening that

Poland welcomes the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. He said Poland has been in close touch with Sri Lankan developments and it noted how the ethnic problem led to the involvement of external powers in the island.

Mr Natwar Singh told the visiting dignitary how the agreement will meet the aspirations of the Tamils within the framework of the Sri Lankan sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The delegations of India and Poland, led by the two ministers, held extensive discussions lasting over 2 hours. The discussions between the two sides covered a wide spectrum of bilateral relations.

Mr Orzechowski said that Poland is looking forward to expanding areas of cooperation with India. He said Poland would be prepared to extend the government [as heard] credit to India for collaboration in the energy sector.

Commentary Hails Results of Yi Kun-mo's Visit

BK221358 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Commentary by H. Sitarama Rao of PTI]

[Text] The just concluded 4-day state visit of the North Korean prime minister, Mr Yi Kun-mo, to India is sure to give a boost to bilateral economic relations between the two friendly nations. The visit, no doubt, was quite successful, as Mr Yi Kun-mo himself said in a statement before his departure.

In summing up his visit, Mr Yi Kun-mo said this time we have had sincere talks on the issues of further expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and other matters of common concern. In the talks, leaders of the two countries were of the view that the friendly and cooperative relations between India and North Korea are conducive to safeguarding peace and security in Asia and strengthening and developing the Nonaligned Movement.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a fellow Asian country with whom India has close and friendly ties. As the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, stated in the speech at the dinner he hosted in honor of the visiting dignitary on Thursday, contacts between Korea and India were established nearly 20 centuries ago by scholars and seekers of truth. They took the message of Lord Buddha to many lands. Korea had left its impression on history from those days.

Developing countries must come forward to share information, know-how, and experience with others. This is the essence of South-South cooperation. Both India and North Korea cherish such cooperation which was given a new impetus at the first nonaligned ministerial meeting on South-South cooperation held in Pyongyang last year.

Mr Yi Kun-mo had a 90-minute exchange of views with Mr Gandhi on matters of mutual interest. The two leaders noted that there is considerable scope for expanding bilateral relations in economic and other fields and decided to take necessary measures for furthering these ties. Mr Yi Kun-mo also handed over a letter to Mr Gandhi from his president, Mr Kim Il-song, inviting him to pay a visit to Pyongyang. Mr Gandhi has accepted the invitation. Details of the visit will be worked out through normal diplomatic channels. Simultaneously, the official delegations of the two sides had separate discussions. During the talks, North Korea expressed its desire to increase the volume of bilateral trade with India to a level of $800 million in a balanced manner in the course of the next few years. The two sides agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in promoting exports to third country markets, as well as possibilities of cooperation and joint venture in the fields of power generation, industry, fishing, and mining.

The agreed minutes of the discussions between India and DPRK on the development of bilateral trade and economic relations was signed by the commerce secretary, Mr A.N. Verma, and Mr Yi Song-nok, North Korea's vice minister of foreign trade. Mr Yi Song-nok headed the 13-member North Korean delegation at the official-level discussions on the development of bilateral trade with India. The two sides identified a number of items of trade interest to each other. The items of export interest to India include textile machinery, building and mining machinery, agricultural machinery and implements, auto tires, transport vehicles, mica and mica products, agro-chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, and leather and leather manufactures. Items of interest to the North Korean side include urea, sulphur, and steel plates.

At present India's major imports from North Korea comprise steel products, such as railway wheels, while India's exports to North Korea consist mostly of iron ore, cotton, wheat, and cereal. The two countries have already signed a work plan agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

2 'Terrorists' Killed

BK220823 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists were shot dead in an encounter with security forces in Jandiala area of Amritsar District early this morning. Some quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the killed terrorists.

'Terrorists' Kill 4 in Amritsar

BK230340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, four persons including two panchayat [village councils] members, a CRPF jawan [Central Reserve Police Force soldier], and one terrorist were

killed in separate incidents in Amritsar District last night. According to an official spokesman, one of the panchayat members, Mukhtiar Singh, was gunned down in his house at Dashmeshnagar village, while the other, Wajed Singh, was killed at a bus stop in Gariala village. The CRPF jawan was shot in an encounter with terrorists near Borwala village. The terrorist was killed in another encounter with police near (Pandori Mehma) village.

4 Gurkha 'Activists' Killed; 55 Arrested

BK221558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text) In West Bengal, four hardcore GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were killed in encounters with the security forces around the Rohini Valley in Kurseong subdivision early this morning. Police raided four different places following a tip-off. In the exchange of fire, four GNLF activists were killed; 55 activists were arrested. Large quantities of explosives and gun making material were also recovered.

The Darjeeling District magistrate said that the state government offices in all the three hill subdivisions functioned normally today.

Iran

UK Destroyer Escorts First Reflagged U.S. Ship

LD231048 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] London, Feb. 23, IRNA—The 412,000-ton supertanker "Chevron South America" has become the first reflagged U.S. tanker flying British colours to be escorted in the Persian Gulf, according to shipping sources in the region.

The supertanker was seen among two British tankers and one UK container ship being chaperoned by British destroyer "Gloucester" sailing through the Strait of Hormuz Sunday. Behind was the U.S. frigate "John A. Moore," unrelated to the convoy.

News of the escort followed reports last week that U.S. oil giants Chevron and Mobil were seeking protection from Britain's 3-warship patrol in the Persian Gulf and together had re-registered five tankers in Bermuda to be able to fly the British red ensign.

The move has surprised observers in view that the U.S. has some 25 warships in the Persian Gulf compared with only two on duty at any one time from the British patrol and can only suggest that the American oil companies have little faith in the U.S. presence.

U.S. warships have often been seen and occasionally been filmed shunning encounters in the Persian Gulf, while Kuwait has paid heavily for reflagging its tankers under the Stars and Stripes.

The Kuwait oil tanker company is expected to see a reversal in its financial results owing to bringing in the Americans, having to pay for the elaborate operational expenses, damage to additional tankers being hit and the need to charter extra vessels.

The emirate has also been affected by lost production when its sea island terminal was put out of action in October and soaring insurance rates, which has made many carriers abandon trips to Kuwait feeling that it is "no longer viable."

The decision of the oil giants not to use the U.S. flag reflects a lack of confidence in America's staying power, and especially in an election year, the fear is that Washington could at any time make a hasty retreat.

UK Reflagging of U.S. Ships in Gulf Assailed

LD211359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Political commentary: "British Military Support for U.S. Ships in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] According to an article in the SHIPPING TIMES, two U.S. oil companies, Chevron and Mobil, recently flew the Bermuda flag on five of their ships that had previously sailed under the Liberian and Bahamian flags. This reflagging occurred so that, when sailing in the Persian Gulf, these ships could enjoy protection from the British fleet. According to declared British Government policy, ships sailing under the British flag or flags of British colonies will be protected by the British fleet if in any kind of danger. Moreover, the British Government had previously given protection to about five reflagged Kuwaiti ships.

Considering the Reagan administration's need for the active participation of other European countries, this British action was tantamount to overt, practical support for and strengthening of the aggressive policies of the Reagan administration in the Persian Gulf. Although the British Government has not given practical support to them, it has put pressure on The Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy to send troops to the Persian Gulf, and it has declared its readiness to given miltary support to these countries. Meanwhile, some time ago, the British foreign secretary stated clearly that if U.S. forces were involved in a clash, the British fleet would support them.

It is interesting to note that despite all these actions and similar plots of military and political support for the Reagan administration, the British Government has constantly striven to paint an independent and non-aligned picture of itself to the world public, while denying the Thatcher government's considerable support for Washington's unjust policies. However, marked and repeated actions by the Thatcher government have clearly shown that support for Washington's decisions and conspiracies hold a special place in Thatcher's policies. Thus, it has been proven, in practice, that the

Thatcher government is faithful to this principle. Iraq obviously started and is continuing the war, and the Saddam regime, which is creating tension in the Persian Gulf, is in possession of chemical weapons. All these facts were reflected in a recent report by the Middle East section of the British Foreign Office. The British Government still follows the unjust policies of the Reagan administration by supporting the Saddam regime.

In any case, it is perfectly obvious that by giving military support to U.S. and Kuwaiti ships and ignoring Iraq's agitations in the Persian Gulf, Britain is, in effect, following unjust policies that only result in increasing tension. The British Government is also giving extensive suport to Washington's aggressive acts under the present circumstances—when the United States is trying to reduce its military presence in the Persian Gulf. These moves on the part of the British Government are unwise and unrealistic.

Washington's European allies, while noting the events of recent years and the bravery and steadfastness of Muslim nations, should accept the undeniable reality that the days of gunboats are over, and that the outcome and consequences of the continuation of such a policy have become clear in Lebanon, Iran, and Palestine.

Commentary on U.S. Fleet's 'Gradual Withdrawal'
NC201350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The Gradual Withdrawal of U.S. Forces Is Yet Another Proof of the Power and Strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Text] Last week, the U.S. Defense Department officially announced that it will pull out four of its warships from the Persian Gulf. This statement came at a time when U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci had explicitly refuted reports several weeks ago on the withdrawal of these ships. However, since the appointment of Frank Carlucci and the dismissal of Caspar Weinberger, it has been very obvious that Reagan is trying, through Carlucci—who is considered to be a moderate by many domestic and foreign circles in the United States—to reduce the number of U.S. ships stationed in the Persian Gulf.

Nevertheless, in view of the negative effects of such a disgraceful pullout and the harmful impact it will have on Washington's allies, the U.S. Defense Department has repeatedly tried to stress, first of all, that U.S. policy with regard to the Persian Gulf issues has not changed and, second, that Washington's support for dependent regional governments will continue. Of course, those who closely follow the world of politics are well aware that repeating and emphasizing these stands merely aim to mitigate the harmful impact that a gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces will have.

At any rate, the disgraceful withdrawal of U.S. and European forces and the paving of the ground for the reestablishment of calm and security in the Persian Gulf have disturbed Saddam's regime more than any other. This is because during the past several years the extensive activities of the Iraqi regime and of its reactionary mentors have been primarily centered on creating and exacerbating tension in the Persian Gulf and on attracting foreign forces to this sensitive region. The Iraqi regime has always tried—by resorting to such weapons and by internationalizing the imposed war—to pave the way to extricate itself from the perilous situation which it created. However, the Islamic Republic's strength and power, as well as the selflessness and devotion of the Islamic ummah, have caused great concern and fear among the arrogant. As a result, this plot by the Iraqi regime has been defeated.

At any rate, in explaining the emergence of this shift in the Reagan administration's current policy, the U.S. Defense Department has persistently tried to propound baseless explanations, such as the need to reduce expenditures of the U.S. forces, the fact that the danger has been reduced, the elimination of the threat of mines in Persian Gulf waters, as well as the isolated nature of the forces. However, in view of the U.S. $150-billion budget deficit, how can one accept the argument that the U.S. military's expenditures—which, according to published figures, do not exceed $30 million a month—have caused this shift? Moreover, in view of the overall conditions in the region and the numerous dangers that threaten the U.S. and European aggressors, how can one allege that conditions have changed and dangers been reduced, dangers that allegedly led to the concentration of these U.S. and European forces in the Persian Gulf?

Therefore, contrary to allegations by the Reagan administration, it is very obvious that Washington's current policy on the Persian Gulf has changed since Frank Carlucci's appointment. Of course, the reasons for this shift should be seen in the fragility of the U.S. forces in the region, as well as in the continuation of covert pressure applied by Reagan's opponents and in the start of the presidential campaign. At the present juncture—in view of the absence of a spectacular difference in the situation of the Republicans and the Democrats and the killing and wounding of a number of U.S. personnel stationed in the Persian Gulf—something can happen at any moment in view of the existing situation there and alter the current situation of the Republicans in the presidential campaign to the benefit of the Democrats.

Therefore, in view of the sensitivity of the current stage in America and of the risk involved in the U.S. presence and the possibility of the outbreak of an extensive conflict, the Reagan administration is persistently trying to pave the way to reduce these forces by concealing the true reason behind this policy.

However, the emergence of this overt retreat in view of the Reagan administration's former threats is a clear sign of the defeat and impotence of its militaristic policies. It

is also a reflection of the power and strength of a risen ummah which has, during this period, displayed some of its strength and power in Iran, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Mo'ayeri Discusses UK Stance on Arms Embargo

LD211146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] We have talked about the efforts of world powers to save the warmongering Ba'thist regime. It is time to hear a remark in this regard on the role of the UK Government broadcast by the state-controlled BBC:

The British Government says that a UN resolution incorporating an arms embargo against Iran would have a considerable and direct impact on efforts related to the war. One of the under secretaries of the British Foreign Office says: It is understood that an agreement may be reached soon on an arms embargo by the permanent members of the Security Council. He added: So long as Ayatollah Khomeyni is in power it does not seem likely that the Iranian position will change.

It will be interesting for you, friends, to hear that the British Foreign Office Middle East desk recently published a report which admitted that it was the Iraqi regime that initiated the war. The Iraqi regime also initiated the attacks on shipping and the so-called tanker war. The Iraqi regime was the one that started the horrible war of the cities, and the Iraqi regime has also used chemical weapons. Yet, despite knowing these facts, why does the London government set itself the target of supporting these aggressors? This is a point to which the world must pay attention.

Well, friends, here is an interview that our colleague had with Mr Mo'ayeri, political adviser to the prime minister, on these hostile activities of the British Government.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In the name of God. Greetings to you, listeners. I am here at the office of His Excellency Mr Mo'ayeri, political deputy at the prime minister's office.

Now, Mr Mo'ayeri, thank you for giving us your time. Well, we know the permanent members of the Security Council that have the right to veto are intent on imposing an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic. Britain is currently playing an active role in this regard. What is the reaction of the Government of the Islamic Republic against this British move?

[Mo'ayeri] One of the great achievements of our great Islamic Revolution is that first, it cut off the hands of all the dependent elements, as well as those of the foreign powers that used to influence our domestic and foreign policies. You know that the British had a longstanding policy in Iran. Unfortunately, because there were no independent governments in Iran, the British enjoyed a great deal of influence.

What the revolution has declared to all countries—in practice as well as officially—is that the Islamic Republic desires to have relations with other countries, but that this relationship must be correct and based on equality. Other countries want us to continue our relationships based on the past pattern, which was colonialistic and, in the words of our dear imam, a relationship of the wolf to the lamb. We wanted equal and independent relations.

Unfortunately, some countries, including Britain, have not yet grasped this point. The United Kingdom's hostile policies since the revolution are fully clear to us. Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic declared its readiness to have ordinary and normal relations with Britain as it has with other countries, we have witnessed no change in the British stance.

As for the Security Council, unfortunately, there have recently been maneuvers to impose an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic. This is being done without considering who is really the aggressor. It is also being done with no regard for the official reports in which the British authorities state that the war was started by Iraq, that it was Iraq that attacked Iran, used chemical weapons, and bombed cities and densely populated areas. They did not even pay attention to their own official report. They are acting in a manner precisely opposed to it.

In our view, if they intend to adopt a hostile policy against us in the Security Council, then we declare that we have no hope of having a reasonable relationship with them. So it is better for them to make adjustments in their relations.

[Correspondent] Mr Mo'ayeri, as the political under secretary [title as heard] of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, please tell us how an arms embargo, if ever decided upon, can affect the Islamic Republic and what will be the consequences.

[Mo'ayeri] As you know, thanks be to God, we have resources within the country, and so we have good capabilities in arms manufacturing in the country, in the military industries of the Defense Ministry, or in the military industries of the IRGC. They have had some very substantial achievements. The war has forced us to maximize the use of our own domestic resources. At present, most of the arms needed for our holy defense are manufactured by our own forces. As time passes, we have seen some new and amazing achievements, as was declared during the 10 Days of Dawn celebration. These were in all spheres, such as aircraft, ships, submarines, munitions, long-range missiles, artillery, and small arms. We are reaching a point of mass production; we have a surplus. Items which we cannot make at home can be obtained from foreign markets as in the past. Their quantities are not great in any case.

What I can say with certainty is that an arms embargo would not have much impact on our forces and our defenses. It cannot affect current developments at the front. What is certain is that if the Security Council does adopt such a resolution, we will consider it a hostile act against our Muslim people and the region's Muslim peoples. Obviously, our contacts with the United Nations and the Security Council will have to change from their present status. [end recording]

Commentary Protests UN Moves on Arms Embargo
LD221226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said in an interview during his visit to Moscow that the five permanent members of the Security Council have prepared a text dealing with an arms embargo, and that the United States will do everything in its power to have that resolution approved during the current Christian month. Saying that the time has arrived for international interference in the Iran-Iraq war, the U.S. secretary of state added that in his discussions with Mikhail Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze, he will also try to prepare the necessary groundwork needed to pass the resolution on an arms embargo against Iran. Furthermore, those accompanying Shultz said that the draft resolution includes clauses such as an embargo on the sale of weapons and spare parts and on the maintenance and repair of weapons, and that it was submitted to other countries last Friday at the United Nations.

Additionally, the considerable insistence and pressure of Reagan's administration on the plan for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran coincides with a reduction in U.S. and European forces stationed in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, in addition to the extensive activities of Reagan's administration, the Iraqi regime and some other lackey regimes of the region have undertaken numerous activities in order to remove any obstacles to an agreement among the permanent members of the Security Council. For instance, Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of the Saudi regime, for the first time and despite the fact that diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the regime of Hijaz have been severed for years, met and conferred with Soviet leaders in Moscow. After the meetings, the foreign minister of the Iraqi regime also visited Moscow and Beijing and made every effort to win the support of those two governments.

Baghdad, Washington, and the reactionaries of the region have made persistent efforts to apply various pressures to impose an arms embargo on Iran. The interesting point is that all these efforts are carried out under conditions where everybody knows that the responsibility for starting the war and for the violations, such as the use of chemical weapons and attacks on ships, rest on the Iraqi regime. Moreover, everyone knows that the Islamic Republic of Iran has acted purely within the framework of defending its own legitimate rights. However, since to admit to the above facts and to punish the aggressor would be accompanied by the growth and strengthening of the Islamic Revolution and the weakening of the tyrannical interests of world arrogance, all the efforts of the Security Council revolve around ending the imposed war as soon as possible and saving the regime of Saddam from its present plight.

Contrary to the vain hopes of those governments, first of all, the continuation of such an unjust policy has not brought about any change in the iron will of the Islamic ummah. Second, in view of the clear capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran to manufacture military weapons, as well as our country's war strategy, the imposition of the arms embargo will only further disgrace and discredit those who sign such a resolution.

The point that should be borne in mind is that other Security Council members should pay attention to the fact that the attempts of the Reagan administration to achieve unanimity among all the members of the Security Council is a conspiracy whose harmful consequences will not be limited merely to Reagan's administration and its European allies, but will also affect all members of the Security Council.

Afghan Muslim Coalition Rejects Soviet Plan
LD231124 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Afghan Muslims will not lay down arms until an Islamic government is established in that country, according the council of Afghan Muslim coalition here Monday. In a statement released on the anniversary of the massacre of Kabul Muslims by occupying Soviet troops (Feb 23 1980), the coalition rejected the idea of any eventual compromise with the "Soviet-inspired groups who are responsible for the social calamities in Afghanistan."

The statement also identified the Soviet Union as the main factor behind all casualties in Afghanistan and added that the council calls for unconditional withdrawal of all Soviet forces from that country and that their struggle will not stop unless all Soviet troops are expelled from Afghanistan.

The statement also rejected the Geneva and UN talks on Afghanistan and said the right of political determination rests solely with the Afghans.

Khomeyni Pardons Gilan Province Prisoners
LD221010 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Rasht, Feb. 22, IRNA—One hundred sixty-one prisoners of the Islamic Revolution Courts of Gilan Province have been pardoned upon Imam Khomeyni's order on the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The sentences of 17 prisoners with various criminal charges were also commuted. Another 20 prisoners guilty for their connections with anti-revolutionary grouplets were also pardoned on the same occasion.

Montazeri Addresses Clergy Going to Fronts

LD221157 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpts] We continue our news reports with the speech which Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made yesterday on the occasion of the day of the clergy and war. He spoke to combat-publicity clergymen who are going to the fronts, the clergymen of the imam's representative office in the IRGC, and the families and relatives of Hojjat ol-Eslams Mahallati and Mohri. [passage omitted]

Regarding the need for publicity at every opportunity, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: The ignorant will be asked on Judgment Day why they did not seek knowledge. If scientists and wisemen do not perform their important propaganda duties, they will also be questioned on Judgment Day.

Referring to the importance of the fronts and the readiness of the fighters to learn Islamic ethics and teachings, he said: You brothers should try to raise issues which will help the fighters. [passage omitted] You should refrain from mentioning controversial issues which might weaken the fighters' morale. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri called on those clergymen who are going to the fronts to meet with the relevant officials for coordination on the fronts, and to report existing problems to the honorable commanders and authorities in Tehran, so that, God willing, they can act on them. Finally, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the final victory of the fighters of Islam and for good health and long life for the imam of the ummah.

IRNA Previews Shultz Visit to Middle East

LD211408 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] London, Feb. 21, IRNA—Thousands of additional Zionist troops have been drafted into the occupied territories in anticipation of intensified Palestinian unrest coinciding with the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the region next week.

The atrocities committed by the Zionist regime in trying to curb the Muslim strength of the Palestinian uprisings has already alarmed and polarised the Zionist lobby in the U.S. and it is feared that further scenes during his trip can only exacerbate the situation.

Reports from the West Bank Saturday refer to another Palestinian youth being brutally killed in Ramallah, after being shot in the head by Zionist troops. Well over 100 Palestinians are believed to have been martyred in the 3 months of Muslim resistance.

Shultz, commonly regarded as the most pro-Zionist secretary of state in U.S. history, is due in the occupied lands Friday and leaflets circulated among Palestinians have called for further protests and a boycott of any meetings during his visit.

The secretary of state is not expected to achieve anything from his trip other than trying to identify any Palestinians willing to compromise to U.S. wishes.

According to the Nazareth-based AL-SINARA, Yasir 'Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organisation has assigned six of its members to hold talks with Shultz but it has been recognised that the organisation has already lost much of its influence in the area.

Reports from Washington say that the nightly pictures of Israel's inhumane tactics are having an effect on the country's 6 million Jews, who are finding it more difficult to keep silent.

It is feared that further factionalisation in the world's largest Jewish community could ultimately affect the influence of Zionist lobby and with it the dollars 3 billion of annual American aid going to Israel and the dependence on U.S. veto of U.N. resolutions.

'Several' Arrested for Tehran Bombings

LD230728 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—A statement by the Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC] Monday said that several persons have been arrested in connection with two terrorist bombings in Tehran earier this month.

The IRC has also seized about 39 kgs of explosives which the terrorists apparently intended to use for similar operations in Tehran later.

The leading members of the terrorist group have reportedly confessed to have received money from Baghdad for terrorist operations in Iran.

Foreign Minister Velayati Departs for Jakarta

NC220607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati left for Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, yesterday at the head of a high-level politico-economic delegation. During the official 3-day visit, at the invitation of the Indonesian foreign minister and in reciprocity for his visit to Iran last year, Mr Velayati and the accompanying delegation will hold talks with high-level officials regarding bilateral relations and important regional and international issues.

Velayati Pays 3-Day Visit to Indonesia

For reportage on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Indonesia, including his meetings with Indonesian President Suharto and Foreign Minister Mokhtar, see the Indonesia section of the 23 February East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Warships End 4-Day Visit to Indonesia

LD211410 Tehran IRNA in English 1359 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—Two Iranian warships currently on 8,000 mile round trip voyage of the Indian Ocean concluded their four-day friendly visit to Jakarta port, Indonesia cutting anchor Saturday.

The warships, "Khark" and "Lavan" have so far covered more than 3,000 nautical miles, visiting Sri Lanka and Indonesia. They carried out mock air and naval exercises in the Indian Ocean yesterday on the 28th day of their journey.

Pakistani Official Meets With Prime Minister

LD222304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] During a meeting with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar commented on the latest developments in Afghanistan. He said the struggle and long holy war of the people of Afghanistan will reach its main goal only with the establishment of a popular government there.

Referring to the fact that Iran's stance on the Afghanistan issue has been strong and stable, he said: In our opinion, peace and calm will not return to Afghanistan unless the motives and aspirations of the mujahidin are fulfilled.

Afterward, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: The new proposals on Afghanistan's future have moved us into a new phase. However, this new phase cannot force us to give up our main objective, that is, the withdrawal of the foreign forces and the establishment of a government based on the people's votes. We have raised this idea from the beginning and we insist on its implementation.

The prime minister continued: We believe that the Muslim mujahidin have justice on their side. As the main factor in the struggle of the people of Afghanistan, their role as the determining force of their country's future is increasing daily. The puppet regime of Kabul can never be the legal representative of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan. Moreover, the regime cannot have any role in the formation of the future government.

While stressing the need for a speedy withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the prime minister said: It would be in the interest of the Soviet Union to leave Afghanistan as soon as possible to allow the Muslim people of that country to determine their own fate.

Interior Ministry Official Leaves for Turkey

LD220700 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—Interior Ministry Deputy for Political Affairs Mohammad Sadr heading a delegation left here for Turkey Monday morning.

The Iranian offical will hold talks with his Turkish counterparts on bilateral ties.

Turkish Official Arrives for Economic Talks

TA221337 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] The Turkish delegation that will participate in the sixth round meetings of the joint Turkish-Iranian economic committee left for Tehran today. According to ANATOLIA AGENCY, the Turkish delegation, which is headed by Treasury and Foreign Trade Under Secretary Yavuz Caneri, includes officials from various ministries, the general directors of some state economic enterprises, and over 70 Turkish businessmen.

In a statement at the Tehran airport, Caneri said that efforts will be exerted to increase the diminishing bilateral trade to the previous levels of 1984 and 1985. Caneri explained that the talks, which will begin today, will be conducted by committees in the fields of commercial, technical, and industrial cooperation, and transportation.

It was reported that the joint economic committee meetings will continue at the ministerial level after State Minister Yusuf Ozal leaves for Tehran tomorrow. The results of the talks will be discussed between the Turkish and Iranian prime ministers during Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Iran on 28 February.

Holds Talks With Nabavi

LD221507 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—Visiting Turkish Deputy Minister of state for foreign trade Yavuz Caneri met with heavy industries minister Behzad Nabavi here Monday and discussed with him Tehran-Ankara economic and industrial relations.

In the meeting, the two sides underlined the need for expansion of economic, industrial and commercial ties between the two neighbouring Muslim countries.

In a separate meeting here earlier today, Caneri held talks with deputy commerce minister for foreign trade Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj on bilateral commercial ties and other issues of mutual interest.

Both Caneri and Khosrow-Taj expressed hope that the joint Tehran-Ankara committees for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, commerce, electricity, chemicals, textiles, foodstuff, transportation and non-oil exports will achieve positive results.

Cabinet Approves Oil Pipeline Projects
LD211413 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh reported to the cabinet today on projects concerning laying of oil trunklines to diversify the country's exporting terminals.

The cabinet session chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi stressed on speedy follow up of such projects on the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman coastlines. It also approved construction of oil pipelines near to international markets.

Later the ministers endorsed a proposal by the Economic and Financial Affairs Ministry on increasing the Islamic Republic's deposits in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to about dlrs. 236 million.

Commerce Minister Returns From Poland 19 Feb
LD201129 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20 IRNA—Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari returned home Friday night at the end of a five-day visit to Poland describing his visit as positive and successful.

Abedi-Ja'fari attended the second meeting of the joint economic commission and also held talks with Polish officials.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival he said that the visit and signing of a letter of understanding marked were [as received] new steps in Iran-Poland relations.

On mutual cooperation he told Iran that there are great potentials in the fields of trade, economics and technology.

According to the agreements reached, he added, Poland will export paper, wood, sugar, coal and agricultural machinery to Iran in return for Iranian oil and non-oil goods.

Furthermore, he added the two countries are to cooperate in chemical, fisheries and trade fields and take part in one another's international fairs.

Labor Minister Sends Messages to Tanzania, Oman
LD230640 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Dar es Salam Mohammad 'Ali Lavasani met Tanzanian labor Minister Daudi Mwakawago in Dar es Salam Monday and delivered to him a message from his Iranian counterpart Abdolqasem Sarhadizadeh on the Muslim Palestinians' uprising.

Mwakawago condemned Zionist crimes against Palestinians and the schemes of the world arrogance in Africa, Asia and Persian Gulf.

Furthermore he said that Tanzania believes that security should prevail in Persian Gulf and that his country supports the Islamic Republic of Iran against the U.S.

In another development, Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Muscat met with Omani minister of Social Affairs and Labor Shaykh Mustahil ibn Ahmed al-Ma'shani and submitted to him a message from the Iranian labor minister.

Al-Ma'shani said that in international organisations and at the Arab League his country has denounced the criminal acts of the Zionist regime.

The Omani labor minister also called for a united struggle of Arab nations against the crimes of the Zionist regime.

Musavi Says 'Liberals' Cannot Disturb Elections
LD201319 Tehran IRNA in English 1107 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Saturday in the forthcoming Majlis elections the government and the executive bodies must reassure the public of their trustworthiness.

Speaking in a one-day seminar of the governors and district governors of the the country on Majlis elections, the prime minister stressed importance of a good Majlis.

Further on the crucial role of the Majlis he said that it looks into needs of the people, solves their problems and supervises running of affairs of the country. In addition, he told the seminar the Majlis prevents corruption and red tape in executive branch of the government.

On forthcoming Majlis elections scheduled for April he said that the related organs must fulfill their responsibilities correctly and within the constitutional framework, as Imam Khomeyni has stated, the yardstick, is the public vote, he added. He also praised good conduct of the executive organs in post-revolution Majlis elections.

The prime minister said that certain elements may try to disturb the elections. Judgments of certain political groups, such as the Liberals will not affect the elections because these same people did not want Iran's relations with the U.S. to be severed and they were worried about Iran's decision to annul agreements with the U.S., he added. What counts, he stressed, is a strong public presence in the elections.

Head of the Central Council for Supervision of Elections and spokesman of the Council of Experts Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Kashani was the next speaker of the session. He invited the participants to remain impartial and virtuous in the course of the elections.

Finance Minister Outlines New Tax Regulations

LD231014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Following approval of the bill on direct taxation in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, our correspondent conducted a telephone interview with Mr Iravani, the minister of economy and finance. In the first part of the news reports, we draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Iravani, in view of the approval of the bill on direct taxation in today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, please let us know what effect this bill will have on the national economy, and whether or not there will be any change in government income with the approval of this bill.

[Irvani] [Passage indistinct] about 70 to 80 percent of government income normally comes from taxes, but in our economy that figure is only 50 percent. In view of the fact that we have reductions in certain areas, such as inheritance tax, the approval of this bill means that taxes will not be increased on the whole. We can see good policies in this bill. Agricultural incomes are exempt from taxes until 21 March 1993. In industries and in industrial activities, tax exemptions are envisaged, particularly in deprived areas or for workers employed in deprived areas.

In connection with the income tax, a direction has been taken and the taxation rates have [words indistinct]. For low incomes [words indistinct] there will be a reduction; while the rate of taxation for incomes above 13 million rials has been increased. The taxation system is headed in this direction. There is about a 70-percent reduction in inheritance tax; this rate has been reduced from a maximum of 90 percent to 25 percent. On the whole, the improvement of methods for discovering tax evasions and for collecting more taxes will increase tax income.

According to this bill, the annual tax on property has a new form. However, despite all that is being said, one house of any value chosen by the owner will be exempt from taxes. In addition to that, other forms of property up to 2 million tumans will also be exempt from taxes. If there is anything left over, taxes will be imposed on the extra amount. Or, in the cases of residential homes where taxes are envisaged, if a house is left unoccupied for more than 6 months, a very small amount of tax has been suggested. This is really a social matter and is in keeping with housing policies.

Another point which should be made is that the implementation of this tax bill will begin in 1989. [end recording]

WIH Denies Iraqi Report of Shelling District

LD221745 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today categorically refuted Iraqi claims that Iranian combatants had shelled Qal'at Dizah District, northeastern Iraq.

The WIH spokesman brushed aside claims of the Ba'thist regime as groundless and reiterated Iranian forces have not shelled any Iraqi cities.

Communique No 3,121 Details Recent Fighting

LD231624 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Iranian frigates intercepted and searched four cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

The 3121st Joint Staff Communique, announcing the above, said the Islamic Republic Air Force decisively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, providing excellent air cover for the Navy.

Iran's Muslim combatants continued their relentless battle with Iraqi troops all over the battlefields Monday, inflicting considerable losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

In the northwestern sector, several Iraqi mortar launchers, some light and heavy vehicles and a number of gun emplacements were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire yesterday. In Sardasht, a number of enemy tanks suffered heavy losses in the same period.

In the Western sector, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and an enemy munitions dump and several vehicles set ablaze when hit by Iranian artillery fire Monday. Iranian artillery fire also checked Iraqi logistical activities and reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Helaleh, Maymak, Naft-e Shah and Sumar sectors.

In Nahr 'Anbar, Western sector, Iranian combatants shelled two Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate their positions yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties on them and forcing them to flee.

In the Southern fronts, the heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants set afire a number of Iraqi engineering vehicles east of Basra and Chazabeh, and inflicted heavy losses on enemy armoured units in Hoseyniyeh and west of Jofeyr Monday.

Iraqi troops suffered heavy casualties and 10 enemy gun emplacements and a light vehicle were destroyed in parts of the Southern and Western sectors, in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces Monday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Attends Soviet Reception 21 Feb

BK220344 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq attended a reception at the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad yesterday evening marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Armed Forces. He asked the Soviet ambassador, Abdul Rakhman Vezirov, to convey his greetings on this occasion to the Soviet leader, Gorbachev.

Zain Noorani Visits PRC, Meets With Leaders

For PRC media coverage of the visit of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani to the People's Republic of China, including talks with Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Liu Shuqing and Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 February China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Zain Noorani Returns From PRC Visit

BK221618 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] China has supported Pakistan's stand on an early end to the Afghanistan problem through the establishment of a broad-based interim government and withdrawal of Soviet forces to facilitate the return of Afghan refugees to their homes. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, while talking to APP at Beijing Airport before leaving for home today. He said there was complete understanding and identity of views during his talks with the Chinese leaders. He had in-depth discussions on international and regional issues with special reference to the Afghanistan problem. The minister of state said he had fruitful discussions with the acting premier, Mr Li Peng; the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian; and the vice foreign minister, Mr Liu Shuqing.

Mr Zain Noorani returned to Islamabad a short while ago. He was talking to newsmen when reports last came in.

Assesses Talks on Afghanistan

BK230316 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] China fully supports and appreciates Pakistan's principled stand for an immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the establishment of a broad-based interim government in that country. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, while talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport last night on his return from Beijing. He said he briefed the Chinese leaders on Pakistan's position and the Geneva drafts which state that the refugees will be consulted on the establishment of an atmosphere conducive to their return to Afghanistan.

He said the Chinese leaders are fully convinced that such conditions cannot be established in Afghanistan unless a broad-based interim government is set up there in place of the present Kabul administration. Mr Zain Noorani said this objective has been sought since last September and was a reflection of Soviet support and acceptance of such a proposal. If this had not been the case, Mr Cordovez would not have engaged in his hectic shuttle diplomacy between Kabul and Islamabad.

Mr Zain Noorani pointed out that the Soviets have since gone back on their acceptance of this proposal. He said the Soviet announcement about troop withdrawal falls short of all requirements for a peaceful settlement of the issue. He added that Mr Gorbachev's recent statement contains nothing new except a conditional withdrawal of troops from 15 May.

Mr Zain Noorani later left for Karachi on his way to Riyadh for talks with Saudi leaders. He said his visit to that country is part of consultations with Pakistan's friends on the Afghanistan problem.

Public Figures Urge Early Afghan Settlement

BK211000 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Lahore, Feb. 8—Opinion leaders from a cross section of society have called upon the Pakistan Government to give serious thought to the Afghan issue by using the forthcoming round of talks in Geneva to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

In a joint statement signed by Syed Fakhar Imam, leader of the Parliamentary Opposition Group, and many others, the public representatives noted with concern that the hostilities in Afghanistan were now increasingly spilling over into Pakistan, threatening to shift the epicentre of the civil war from Afghan territory to Pakistan. This has included the hot pursuit of anti-Kabul elements, frequent artillery shelling from across the border and violation of Pakistan's air space by the Afghan Government's warplanes.

The influx of Afghan refugees, who have freedom of activity and movement, has noticeably upset the demographic situation in the Frontier Province and Baluchistan. Every fifth person in these two provinces is an Afghan. The prolonged stay of the Afghan refugees in Pakistan has further given rise, the statement said, to multiple problems threatening the country's socio-economic fabric, including rising prices, unemployment, and above all the rising incidence of drug trafficking and addiction together with an increase in the crime rate and terrorism.

The statement claimed that some 100 explosions took place in the country during 1987 according to an official account. More than 500 persons died and many hundreds, whom Gen Ziaul Haq described as "ghazis," [holy warriors] were injured during these explosions. The number of armed clashes between Pakistanis and Afghan refugees was on the increase as were cases of infighting between various groups of Afghan refugees. This situation, the statement noted, leads one to believe that the authorities in Pakistan no longer have any control over the Afghan migrants' organisations.

Attributing the present difficulties facing Pakistan to the Government's current foreign policy, the opinion leaders said that the policy, which was not based on realities and lacked the support of the people, had brought the country to a situation which was highly detrimental to national interests. Calling for an early settlement of the Afghan issue, the leaders said that it was necessary for the Government to abandon the tactics of procrastination. The government must be guided solely by the country's national interests as now is the right time to take positive steps, instead of "scoring points," to reach a settlement. The voice of the Pakistani people must therefore be heard in the corridors of power before it is too late.

Some of the signatories to the joint statement are: Omar Asghar Khan, Mian Khurshid Kasuri, Sheikh Mohammad Rashid, M.R. Meraj Khalid, Abdul Wali Khan, Mir Ghous Bakhsh Bizenjo, Jam Saqi, Sardar Shaukat Ali, C.R. Aslam, Abid Minto, Aitzaz Ahsan, Afzal Haider, Mirza Mohammad Ibrahim, Syeda Abida Hussain, Mrs Tahira Mazhar Ali, Mrs Mehnaz Rafi, Tasnim Minto, Mrs Nasim Shamim Malik, Mrs Asma Jehangir, Mrs Shahida Jabeen, Mrs Fahmida Badar, Abdullah Malik, I.A. Rahman, Salman Taseer, and Alyas Faiz.

Paper Criticizes India's 'Imperial Ambitions'

BK211002 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Rajiv: Resurrecting Ambitions"]

[Text] In a chilling echo of his mother's imperial ambitions, Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi is engaged in a practically non-stop tirade against Pakistan. Being pandered by superpowers before their final exits from the Indian Ocean, Rajiv Gandhi seems hell-bent on vitiating the air in the region, especially at a time when the first real thaw is being evidenced on Afghanistan. Whilst grabbing glittering new weapons with both hands (nuclear submarines being the latest) he still poses as a dove of peace when sitting among the Group of Six.

To all intents and purposes Mr Gandhi desires to embark on a "pacification" venture against Pakistan and in all probability before the fires go cold in Afghanistan and the Gulf, and notwithstanding the fires that rage in his Punjab. Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and the victory of the Islamic forces in the Iran-Iraq war may mean the ascendncy of Islamic forces in the region, of which Pakistan is an unequivocal and inseparable part; and that certainly would be a stunning setback to Delhi's undying ambition of hegemony from Suez to Sumatra.

Pakistan's response, both at the governmental and popular level, is rather obscure; the challenge is either being casually dismissed or shrugged off as a tiresome inevitability. The Government and the people would do well to join hands and formulate a forthright response based on wisdom and courage, and not the customary knee-jerk reactions of abject appeasement or red-eyed confrontation. Mikhail Gorbachev could play positive role if he is still being guided by his imperatives and initiatives for a new peace in Asia. As over the past two years, the Soviets can once again use their leverage in India to promote a detente between India and Pakistan, a detente based on equity and sovereignty. Otherwise, there is a real danger that Rajiv may resurrect old fires.

Sri Lanka

Athulathmudli Says Province Will Reject Merger

BK221123 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0911 GMT 22 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 22 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Eastern Province will definitely vote against the merger of the north and the east when a referendum is held there to find out the will of the people. The merger which is one of the main points of people's disagreement with the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord was opposed by less than 25 percent of the Tamils in the east at the time of signing of the accord, but today over 50 percent of the Tamils there oppose it.

This is the answer given by the National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali in response to a question asked by a senior student at the Mahapowa Ganadarlhana Seminar held on Saturday [20 February] at the Yowun Nikethanaya at Mirigama, states today's "DAILY NEWS". Explaining certain conditions of the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace accord, the minister said "there are certain conditions which the people have accepted, but there are also certain conditions such as the merger of the north and east which the people have opposed."

However when the provincial council [PC] elections are held and the decentralisation of power is implemented, there can be many good things that will flow from such a system. Though certain parties may not participate in PC elections, the success of the system depended on the implementation and on the support and its acceptance of the people.

In reply to another question, Mr Athulathmudali said "one of the main things in our favour in this peace accord is India's opposition to any division of Sri Lanka and its pledge to protect our sovereignty. Any division of Sri Lanka as a solution to the ethnic problem will follow division of India and the separatists there will have Sri Lanka as an example. That is the reason why the Indians want to protect the unitary state of Sri Lanka".

Recalling the courage displayed by the Sri Lankan Security Forces in taking back the Vadamarachchi area and most of Jaffna Peninsula, Mr Athulathmudali claimed that after the brilliant military operation at Vadamarachchi and when the Security Forces were poised to march into the Jaffna town, India feared that the Sri Lanka Government might not have political or peace talks with the separatist terrorists, but that was not Sri Lanka's position. "We have always wanted political dialogue to settle this dispute in a peaceful manner. Even if we took over the whole of Jaffna, yet we would have had political discussions for a final solution," he said.

The minister observed "our military superiority over the terrorists would have helped in the negotiation for a just political settlement. The Vadamarachchi operation, a great achievement of our Security Forces, is even being studied by the Indian Army as to how we did it with a negligible number of civilian casualties".

Speaking on the ethnic question Mr Athulathmudali emphasised "If there was any issue that all Sri Lankans agree upon, it is that any foreigners on our soil should go soon. In the settlement of ethnic question, one can't think of the interest of only one ethnic group and try to find solutions at the expense of other ethnic groups.

"However no one should try to divide the country to find solutions to ethnic problems. If any group says it can't live with another ethnic group and demands for a separate state with a division of the country, that will simply be not allowed—such an attempt will be opposed at all costs. Under no circumstance will that be allowed—the whole world including India is with us on that question. Any demand of any group should be within the framework of a unitary Sri Lanka and without any infringement of its sovereignty".

In reply to a question on the youth unrest, the minister assured that he would do everything possible to settle the university problem and help authorities to take steps to re-open the universities. "My fervent appeal to all university students is that they should study and sit for their examinations as scheduled.

"My sincere wish is that you—university students—complete your studies and be worthy citizens of society. Youth unrest is not only due to unemployment, but also due to social injustices. If there are social injustices we should find ways and means of removing them. If ability and merit remain as criteria for selections there can be some satisfaction among the youths".

He observed thot it was one of the reasons for the northern youths to support terrorists. However youth unrest was a thing that would never see an end. Ever since the human race began there has been youth unrest, and it will continue to be there for generations to come he said.

4 Leftist Parties Form Socialist Alliance

BK211633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, lakhs of people paid their last respects to the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party leader, Mr Vijaya Kumaratunga, who was killed on Tuesday. The body was cremated at the historic Independence Square in Colombo. The Sri Lankan president, the prime minister, and other Cabinet ministers also paid their homage to the departed leader.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the four left parties—Sri Lanka Mahajana Party, Communist Party, Lanka Sama Samaja Party, and the Nava Sama Samaja Party—signed a document formally launching a left front called the United Socialist Alliance. The document was signed just before Mr Kumaratunga was cremated. Our correspondent reports that for the first time since the 1983 ethnic conflict representatives of two Tamil groups—PLOTE and EPRLF—shared the same platform to express solidarity with the left parties and the ideals of Mr Kumaratunga.

Tamil Moderates, Militants Hold 'Unity' Talks

BK230832 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Madras, India, Feb 23 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main Tamil party and four Tamil guerrilla groups are holding unity talks to bring together the moderates and militants, its leader said here.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) feels such unity is absolutely necessary, party General Secretary Appapillai Amirthalingam told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE late Monday.

He said the TULF had held discussions with the leftwing Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) and would meet leaders of three other groups formally "one by one."

Preliminary talks have already been held with the three—the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), he added.

Mr. Amirthalingam said the TULF and the militants thought they needed to come together and take a "united stand on the Tamil question in relation to both the Indian and Sri Lankan Governments."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dominant Tamil militant group, which is fighting Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka, was welcome to join the unity moves, he said. "We are not excluding anyone," the former parliamentarian added.

The TULF, EROS, TELO, PLOTE and EPRLF have accepted an Indo-Sri Lanka Peace accord that sought to end the Tamil separatist campaign but the LTTE has repudiated it.

Mr. Amirthaliangam, who has been sentenced to death by the LTTE for his moderate views, said his party had "very cordial relations" with EROS, which was an LTTE ally during the campaign for a Tamil homeland called Eelam.

Mr. Amirthaliangam, who has been living here in self-imposed exile since 1983, Monday shared a platform with leaders of EROS and EPRLF at a meeting here to mourn the death of Sri Lankan opposition presidential candidate Vijaya Kumaratunge.

He told the meeting that the LTTE would not be able to subdue the TULF by killing its leaders. "If some people think they can silence or frighten us this way, they are thoroughly mistaken." He was referring to the killing of a former TULF senator, S. Nadarajah, 72, by suspected LTTE members in Jaffna Saturday.

The EROS is planning to intensify protests to demand the release of a group leader held by the Indians since being freed by Colombo February 8.

"We are planning a series of protests and to put political pressure on India" to secure the release of its Batticaloa District Commander Haran, an EROS spokesman said.

Haran was arrested by the Sri Lankan Special Task Force (STF) from Batticaloa on January 28 and released after 11 days, mainly due to Indian pressure. But Haran has since been held in an Indian Army camp at Palaly in the island's north, where he went on a day's protest hunger strike Saturday.

Violence Continues Between Troops, Separatists

TULF Ex-Senator Shot Dead

BK211129 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1111 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—Subramaniam Nadarajah, a former senator and the TULF's member of the DDC [District Development Council] Jaffna was shot dead at his residence in Mallakam at 1530 hours yesterday, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

Mr Nadarajah, 72, served as a senator in Sri Lanka from 1965 to 1970. A senior lawyer he had also been a TULF member of the District Development Council (DDC) in Jaffna in 1981 to 1985.

Reports received by LANKA PUWATH from Jaffna stated that a sarong clad gunman had entered Mr Nadarajah's bedroom in his home at Mallakam and shot him dead.

Official sources also said that an Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) major and a soldier were killed and two soldiers wounded by an LTTE landmine at Ambuvellipuram, Trincomalee at 1930 hours (local time) yesterday. After the landmine explosion the terrorists had fired at the Mihindipura police post causing no casualties.

Two Indian soldiers were wounded when a claymore mine was exploded by terrorists at Champiyanpattu in Batticaloa, yesterday. The troops were engaged in clearing the Soranpattu-Champiyanpattu Road at the time of the incident. A civilian was also wounded.

An LTTE terrrorist attack at the police station at Kalawanchikudi, Batticaloa at 2240 hours (local time) Friday was effectively repulsed.

Official sources also told LANKA PUWATH that a group of about 15 armed terrorists had entered the house of Saiyudu Mahmood at Pala Thoppur, Trincomalee at 2200 hours (local time) Friday and demanded rs. 1,000 for every acre of paddy cultivated by him. He had refused to pay the money. The terrorists had taken him away and shot him dead. Villagers had later found the body on the main road.

LTTE Kills Fisherman

BK230929 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0907 GMT 23 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—Chandrasekaran, a fisherman, was shot dead by LTTE terrorists at Kallar in Batticaloa, Sunday, for shielding his brother-in-law, George Washington [as received] a member of the "TELO" group who it is alleged was an IPKF informant, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

They said a board stating "punishment awarded to ungrateful man" was found near the body of Chandrasekaran.

2 More Fishermen Killed

BK231214 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Two out of a group of five fishermen out fishing on the Kokkilai lagoon at (Valioya) in Trincomalee yesterday are believed to have been killed by terrorists. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the fishermen were fired upon by a gang of terrorists who, it is alleged, were clad in black overalls. The sources said two of the fishermen had managed to trek to the Security Forces' post in the area until before the incident.

Meanwhile, in search operations conducted by the IPKF in the Jaffna sector, the Indian forces apprehended four terrorists at Kokkuvil. At Point Pedro, an IPKF soldier was wounded by a mine at [placename indistinct] point. The Indian troops later recovered 160-mm mortar. At Tirunelveli, the IPKF recovered two improvised explosive devices.

'Terrorist,' 10 Suspects Arrested

BK230939 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0931 GMT 23 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian peace keeping force (IPKF) in operations conducted at Mankulam in the Vavuniya District today captured an LTTE terrorist along with his AK-47 rifle. Indian troops in search operations in the Jaffna sector today apprehended 5 terrorist suspects at Puttur, 3 at Karainagar and 2 at Jaffna town.

The IPKF also recovered 3 jerry cans filled with explosives at Annaikoddai. At Thondaimannar 2 40-mm high explosive rounds of ammunition were recovered and at Navatkuli 1 improvised explosive device was recovered.

4 IPKF Soldiers Killed

BK231155 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1151 GMT 23 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 23 (LANKA PUWATH)—Four Indian soldiers including an officer were killed when an IPKF patrol ran into an LTTE terrorist ambush at Mullaitivu in the early hours of this morning. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the body of an LTTE terrorist was also found at the scene.

The incident occurred between 0200 hours and 0300 hours (local time) today.

2 Soldiers Killed by Gunmen

BK231315 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Two Sri Lankan Army soldiers who were off duty and sleeping at their quarters at the army unit guarding the Isrumuni Viharaya [religious place] were shot dead last night by subversive gunmen. According to police sources, a T-56 automatic rifle was used in the shooting. A senior police officer told LANKA PUWATH that the killers carried out the attack at about 2320 yesterday. The police have found 20 empty cartridges at the scene of the crime. The gunmen had removed 1 T-56 rifle and 4 magazines containing 200 rounds of ammunition. [sentence as heard]